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ASA Recognizes World AIDS Day on Campus

BY NICHIA MCDOWALD
Contributing Writer

On Dec. 1, with people around the world commemorating World AIDS Day, Howard University's African Student Association hosted a seminar featuring Her Excellency Grace Ssemपालа, Uganda's ambassador to the U.S. and John Moreti, counselor at the embassy of Botswana.

The seminar offered several facts about AIDS. Around the world, women and girls are more susceptible to HIV than men and boys. Studies show that they can be 2.5 times more likely to be HIV-infected than males. This reality can be attributed to inadequate knowledge about AIDS, insufficient access to HIV

prevention services, inability to negotiate safer sex, and a lack of female-controlled HIV prevention methods.

David Timado, Ph.D., candidate in economics and graduate research assistant, gave an awareness presentation that centered on the disease as it relates to Sub-Saharan Africa, where HIV/AIDS is the number one cause of death. Out of 13,400 daily new HIV cases, 8,500 come from that area.

"Have you heard me today?" is the striking question at the core of this year's World AIDS campaign. The campaign focuses on AIDS as it relates to women and girls around the world. More specifically, it explores the role that gender inequality plays in perpetuating the HIV/AIDS

epidemic.

Keeping with this year's focus, Timado discussed the effect of the disease on women and girls in that area. "There are 36 infected women for every 10 infected men in Sub-Saharan Africa," Timado said.

In his presentation, he reinforced the ABC method of attacking the problem. The method stands for Abstinence, Be Faithful to one partner and Condom.

Ssemपालа addressed the problem in Uganda. "Even though it mostly affects Sub-Saharan Africa, HIV is a world problem," she said. "When we started the fight against HIV/AIDS we were just coming out of war. We didn't have the money. The only weapon we had was knowledge." The AIDS preva-

lence rate was at a high of 30 percent."

Ssemपालа went on to say that Uganda has made progress and has demonstrated that HIV, though deadly, can be overcome. "Uganda's HIV prevalence rate is now less than five percent," Ssemपाला said.

In Botswana, which has a population of 1.7 million people, over 300,000 are living with AIDS. Botswana has set goals to solve their problem. By 2016, their goal is to achieve a healthier nation.

"The president has approached this problem with distinction, humility, and grace. We cannot afford to fail," Moreti said.

See AIDS, News A5



Mark King, Staff Photographer

On World AIDS Day this Wednesday, the HU African Student Association hosted a seminar to inform students about AIDS.

GRE Prep Courses Empty Students' Pockets

BY KRISTAL NANCIO
Contributing Writer

With many juniors and seniors preparing to take the Graduate Record Exam, there are many complaints about the high cost of preparatory classes. The GRE is a standardized test that provides graduate schools with a way to compare qualified applicants for admission and financial aid. Many students take these prep classes to help them get an idea of the format of the tests, to get practice and to help them maximize their scores. The prices of these classes can range from \$400-\$2,200 for 15- to 35-week courses.

These prices are out of the budget range of many college students who have to work and save or depend on family members to give them the money. This may force many students to opt to study for the exam on their own instead of forking out the several hundred dollars for a structured class.

"I plan on simply buying a prep book and studying on my own because I can't afford prep classes, especially not when graduate school application fees are \$70 and more," said Rayanne Mitchell, a junior English major.

GRE text books containing helpful tips, test-taking strategies and practice exams are available at most bookstores and can range in price from \$17-\$35. Many of these books come with an interactive compact disc with practice tests and answer keys. Some students feel that the same results can be attained with the use of these books and individual studying.

"I studied on my own with the Princeton Review text and I got a higher score than my friend who shelled out \$800 for a prep class," said Robert Wilson, a psychology graduate student.

Some students feel that while a prep class is helpful, it may not be worth the high price being charged.

See GRE, News A5

Local Youth Inspired at B2B Conference

BY CHARREAH JACKSON
Asst. Campus Editor

Over 200 local middle and high school male students were shown they could be somebody and that someone does care about them at Tuesday's 14th Annual Brother 2 Brother Youth Conference, hosted by the Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council.

"It is our hope to enlighten the youth and let them know that people want to see them do positive things," said Jamel Willis, co-chair of workshops for the conference. "Today is all about showing them they don't have to be another statistic. Whether they admit or not, a lot of people at Howard had people to show them the ropes and this conference wants to do the same for these boys."

Bus delays did not impede the conference as seminars and speakers covering health, finances, and the state of the Black man, joined with entertainment including music, spoken word, and Ooh Laa Laa Dancers, to bring to life the theme, 'Shaping and empowering the new bearers of the guiding light.'

Male students in grades seven to 11, representing roughly 12 schools, attended the conference. Some showed the conference's impact on them through active responses and visible interest during workshops and the brotherhood luncheon.

"Yeah, this conference will stay with me," said Derrick Walker, an eighth-grader at Sousa Middle School in Southeast D.C. "I came last year and this one is much better. We talked about HIV and how you can get it. I didn't know a lot of that stuff. Now I know."

Along with examining the legacy of Black males and uncovering the truth of stereotypes of Africa, students were challenged to consider their future in the session 'Health Matters.'

"Reproductive health has traditionally been a woman's issue," said Solomon Irwin Royster, outreach manager for D.C.'s Planned Parenthood. "We want these young men to understand they can be

See YOUTH, News A5



Over 200 young D.C. males attended Tuesday's 14th Annual Brother to Brother Conference sponsored by Beta Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council.

Tia Goodson, Staff Photographer



Students Prepare for Final Exams

BY SHARI LOGAN
Contributing Writer

As the semester draws to an end, many students are excited to go home for the holidays. But first, they have to leap past one more obstacle: final exams.

For the next two weeks, finals will be administered, and while some students are under pressure to pass their exams with flying colors, others are choosing not to succumb to the pressure.

"My advice to others is plan and prepare," said Adam Zane, a senior marketing major. "It's serious but it's not that serious."

Masal Keels, a sophomore public relations major said, "I'm not stressed. One way or the other, it will come."

However, other students like junior Candace Morgan become stressed when they are actually taking their final exams.

"Students want to leave early, so they convince teachers to schedule exams earlier," said Morgan, a radio, TV, film major. "This makes it hard to manage my time."

Junior math major Derrick Dennis is personally making sure that he spends enough time studying. He said, "I just make sure that I budget my time more and have a schedule, so that

enough time is allotted to each subject. I have to prioritize also. If one exam is not as hard as another, I don't study for that exam too much."

Dr. Scharn Robinson, a national government professor, shares the same belief and feels that studying for finals is as easy as ABC. "A-form study groups and share notes; B-be sure to review every topic studied in class; C-make a schedule," Robinson said. "Have hours and days blocked out for each class, so that the material is covered thoroughly. Although this is basic, it matters a lot during this time, students must remember

See FINALS, News A5



Alvado Alexander, Staff Photographer

As the holiday season approaches, stress levels increase as students prepare for final exams.

Campus, A2-A4
Graduate, A6
Nation & World, A8
Life & Style, B1-B3
Sports, B4-B5
Editorials & Perspectives, B8



Find out why
School of
Education is tops
in the nation...

Graduate...A6



Find out why the
NAACP President
stepped down...

Nation & World...A8



See what the new
text messaging
craze is about...

Life & Style...B1

VOICES & VIEWS

How do you feel about the school year being half way over?



C. Brown
Senior
Radio, TV, Film

"Good, less school means less hate. Let's make next semester hate free guys and gals."



Clevette Williams
Sophomore
Political Science

"I am excited about the school year being half way over because I am anticipating the break. I hope next semester goes by quickly also."



Crystal Gissentanna
Freshman
Music business

"I am glad the school year is half way over. I'm ready for the winter break and looking forward to the next semester."



Whitney Hopkins
Freshman
Business Management

"The semester went by so fast! I'm excited to go home for Christmas break and am looking forward to second semester."

Photos by Marlene Hawthorne

Students Rate First Fridays as a Success

BY JASMIN MCCLENDON
Contributing Writer

If you walk into the Punch Out on a day with a DJ playing the latest hits, people in the middle of the floor dancing and even the people behind the counters bobbing their heads, it's a sure sign of First Fridays held once a month by the Howard University Student Association (HUSA).

The main purpose of First Fridays is to inform students about what's going on with HUSA and encourage school spirit. First Fridays is designed to make HUSA a more visible and trustworthy government. "Students can see the student government and chill with Conrad and Freda in an informal setting," said Kenneth White, assistant programs director.

The HUSA staff encourages students to wear Howard gear in the Punch Out every First Friday. HUSA gives out a number of prizes to students including t-shirts, Howard CD cases, women's duffle bags, laundry bags and basketball foam hands.

"We try to get stuff we know people will use. We give away exclusive stuff they can only get from HUSA," said Freda Henry, HUSA's vice-president.

Students can win prizes by answering questions about HUSA's platform or Howard. Last month, they had a dance contest and also raffled off prizes. Even if students do not participate, they can still receive prizes just for wearing Howard paraphernalia.

"We might come by your table while you're eating and drop a prize on you,"

said Conrad Woody, HUSA's president.

At the initial First Friday HUSA registered students to vote. Last month they gave out paraphernalia and talked to students about their issues and concerns. "The second one had a different flavor to it; we want to improve upon it each time and give them a new twist," Henry said.

Most of the Punch Out staff is in support of First Fridays. Many workers said that the event brings more business to the Punch Out. They also said the students look like they're enjoying themselves.

"It's cool cause it changes up the mood. It brings a different atmosphere to the usually boring Punch Out," said Stephen Sauls, a Chick Fil-A employee.

"Tell them to turn it [the music] down I can't hear the orders, I be messing up people's orders," said Dred Vanderveer, a Pandini's worker, jokingly. "It's a young people thing it doesn't bother me one way or another."

Most Punch Out workers agreed that HUSA should have the event more often. Since HUSA has so many other events, having First Fridays more often might be too much. "We are students too. We need to be able to balance our academic and social lives," White said. However, Woody and Henry said that if there is a demand for it, they would be happy to deliver.

Students who have attended First Fridays have given it positive feedback. "A lot of people like me don't know about HUSA and I can become more aware of their purpose and intentions," said Stanley Johnson, a sophomore accounting major.



Marlene Hawthorne- Staff Photographer

In an effort to mix and mingle with the student body, HUSA has formed First Fridays in the Punch Out, an event that most students say is a success.

"It's a lot of energy, people have more fun and interact more just because they're up there," said sophomore public relations major Bianca Williams. "It's a good idea; it gives the student government a space, they're not just behind the door anymore. It's nice to see the people who are behind the scenes interacting with the students."

HUSA wants First Fridays to have a positive effect on the student body.

"I think it shows them that we have a fun side and we'll be there for them," Woody said.

Look out for First Friday, today in the Punch Out from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Smart Rooms In Need of Major Repair

Faculty members and students are complaining that some of Howard University's smart rooms have not been very "smart" this semester.

Smart rooms are equipped with built-in audio-visual capabilities and other technologies to enhance the learning experience. However, with grievances about defective equipment, some of those who utilize Howard's 28 smart rooms feel these classrooms are not fulfilling their purpose.

"The fact that the smart room has been inoperable has hindered me because I have not been able to present visual aids to help students," said Lavonne Jackson, an Afro-American studies professor. Jackson teaches three Introduction to Afro-American Studies classes in Locke Hall Room 104. She said that problems with the room's equipment prevent her from using PowerPoint, Blackboard, or CDs with her lectures.

Claiming to have had problems with this room for the past two years, Jackson feels that her troubles have been overlooked by those responsible for the smart rooms.

"The media center has been unavailable to address complaints concerning the lack of proper equipment," Jackson said. Despite Jackson's comment, in the final weeks of this semester, some repairs were made to the smart room and now she can use the overhead projector and make PowerPoint presentations.

But for some students in Jackson's classes, these improvements did not come soon enough.

"I think it puts teachers at a disadvantage, especially in this class because she wants to show a lot of



Jordan Colbert- Asst. Photo Editor

Smart rooms around the campus have been inoperable and have hindered the learning process for students and for some professors.

transparencies," said Lindsay Thomas, a sophomore biology major. "Especially seeing that I am a visual learner, I think I would have learned better [with more visual aids]," Thomas said.

Shemekia Sloan, a junior psychology major, also felt that her learning experience would have been easier with functional technology.

"It's ridiculous," Sloan said. "Half the time you can't hear the teacher and even if you can't hear with the overhead you could at least see [the lecture]."

Herman King, coordinator for the audio visual department in the College of Arts and Sciences, cited a variety of reasons why some smart rooms around

campus have not been fully functional including a lack of planning and resources, as well as security problems.

"[The smart rooms] were installed with no service contract, as a result the rooms continue to deteriorate," King said.

Lacking a contract about two years ago, outside contractors were hired to begin servicing smart rooms in the College of Arts and Sciences. King was asked by administrators in Physical Facilities Management to coordinate their efforts. Eventually he became the coordinator for smart rooms university-wide.

According to King, each smart room has a contact person for problems that arise. If the contact person cannot fix the situation, then King is called in.

"I go find out the nature of the problem and then bring in the necessary people to solve problems."

Although King said that he feels that the contractors are doing a good job solving technical problems and that ISAS has been cooperative in working with network glitches he admitted that right now he does not have the resources to address all the upkeep concerns about the smart rooms in a timely manner.

"In order for us to do the job and do it right it has to be funded," King said. He said that a budget proposal has been made that would include a maintenance plan and system that would allow the rooms to be better monitored for technical issues.

See REPAIR, News A5

HU History: Crime Not a New Problem at the Mecca

BY ASPEN STEIB
Contributing Writer

In a Hilltop article dated Jan. 16, 1976, Deputy Director and Chief Security Officer at Howard University, Lloyd Lacy said, "Over \$2,000 worth of property belonging to students was stolen over the semester break."

In the fall semester of 2004, not much has changed. There has been an on-going cycle of armed burglaries of students in the vicinity of their dormitories. An anonymous student quoted in the 1976 article said "I'm not that upset about losing [my] typewriter that can be replaced. I'm upset about the way they're handling the whole thing. People are scared to sleep, because it could have been someone's life."

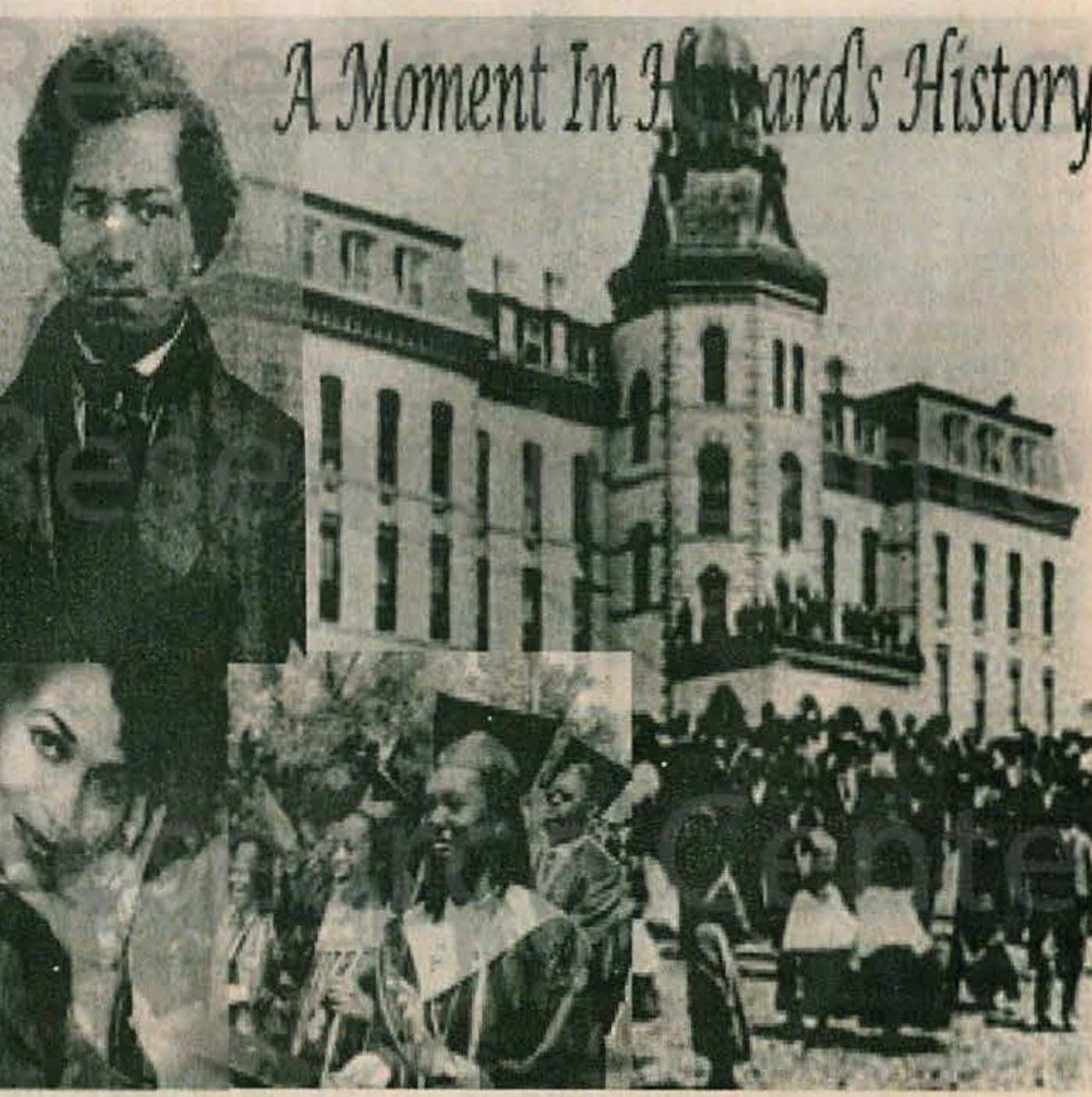
Students feel the university is still apathetic to those who are being robbed in campus parking lots. Senior psychology major Jennifer Maddox was robbed at gunpoint in the East Towers parking lot. "For the longest time after it happened, I was afraid to walk to the car by myself at night. During the day there are three or four security guards standing around talking, but at night, when it really matters, there is no one there to do their job," Maddox said.

Students burglarized in the winter break of 1976 lost stereos, televisions, typewriters and other electrical appliances. Now, students are losing cash as well as debit cards, credit cards and check books. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, was robbed by a group of college-aged students while walking to campus from Slowe Hall.

"A gang of college-aged locals asked me if I went to Howard and I said yes. Then they took my wallet. I had to cooperate because there was so many of them. We are walking ducks coming from Slowe because it is in the middle of the 'hood,'" said the anonymous student.

The anonymous student also said "I don't particularly feel safe because the shuttles don't run late at night and when I study at the Health Sciences Library, I have to walk back because the escort service takes at least an hour if it comes at all. I just don't feel safe on this campus anymore."

A student quoted about her loss in the robberies in 1976 said "they're (university personnel) not telling us anything. Everybody is acting strange about it." Students still feel the same today.



A Moment In Howard's History

FRESHMEN SPEAK:

After going home for the holiday, do you feel you have a better appreciation for your family since you have been away from them for a few months?

"Yes, I have a better appreciation for my family, because the time I spend apart from my family I realize how much I miss them. I miss being cooked for, having my clothes washed for me, driving and hanging out with my friends and having air conditioning."

Priscille Thebaud, nursing

"Yes, I have a better appreciation. Distance makes the heart grow fonder. I learned to appreciate my parents more as I mature. For my family, Thanksgiving is like a reunion, so being away makes it more significant for me."

Lauren Pass, biology

"Yes, going back home makes me appreciate my family more. It's nice to be in an environment of warm people you are familiar with and they are familiar with you. Being home is less stressful than school and filled with joy and laughter."

Shari K. Inniss-Grant, English

"Yes, because they brought me here and took care of me from a distance and I appreciate it a lot. I can't show my appreciation from far away, so when I get home I show them how much I miss them. They thought that I was so unappreciative this semester so when I got home I was able to show them my appreciation."

Michael Fortson, music education

"Yes. I haven't seen them for a while and since I don't see them often, I don't take the time that I spend with them for granted. My family is always there for me. I can count on them for anything. So I learn to appreciate them more."

David Hamilton, marketing

"Yes, I have a better appreciation for my family because family is a support system. My mom is always there in the house when I need advice. She's always accessible. My family is very close. We always have get-togethers for birthdays, etc. So I miss those gatherings and also seeing my two nieces."

Shayla Coleman, business management

"I do feel a better appreciation because I've been torn away from my family for so long that it makes me appreciate the little things like real food. I miss the home cooking, close friends and the atmosphere that I've grown to love and admire."

Thomas Hailu, undecided

"Yes, I do have a better appreciation, just because I haven't been around my family for so long. I appreciate the smallest things like my little brother Collin. I miss his sarcastic remarks."

Ariel Miller, business management

"Yes. Here I feel like I'm all alone. No one really understands me. I'm just thrown out here all by myself, and this is the first time I've been away from my family for this long. I miss being able to get food whenever I want. I also appreciate my room at home because it's bigger than the one I have here and I don't have to share it with a complete stranger and worry if he's going to steal my stuff."

Kamal Marie, music education

"I do have a better appreciation. My parents are working a lot for me to be here and making a lot of sacrifices for me to be here. My mom is working double shifts and they have to do more around the house. Being around them just makes me realize how much I appreciate them."

Steven Johnson, accounting

"Yes, I have a better appreciation for my family because they are great loving people and they help me whenever I can. I don't have that type of bond with anyone here at school."

La'Ron Buey, biology

"Yes, because being an only child, I realize how much my family does for me. Being on my own makes me appreciate them more. I really miss the home-cooked meals, my car and my butler Jeffrey."

Brittney Jackson, sports medicine/ pre-med

Compiled by Andrea J. Hill

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Gilmore Described as Gifted Multi-Tasker

BY KEIRSTEN ALSTON-MURRAIN
Contributing Writer

Juggling school and work is a part of college life that many students experience. However, junior political science major Alisa Gilmore has even more responsibilities. With a youth organization to run, a GPA to maintain and commitments to campus organizations, Gilmore has no time to waste. A native of Oakland, Cal., Gilmore came to Howard not only for an education, but also to get involved in the community. In high school she became an organizer at The Youth Education Alliance, a project of Listen, Inc., and decided to continue her work with the organization in college. The Youth Education Alliance is an organization that seeks to organize and empower D.C. public high school students. Some of the campaigns they have worked on are getting better facilities and healthy school lunches in public schools. Gilmore says that the most fulfilling part of her job is the impact she has on the young women in her program.

"They get to see things beyond Southeast or Northwest D.C.," she said.

Ann Caton, the lead organizer at The Youth Education Alliance, said that Alisa is "phenomenal."

"She is extremely efficient, smart and has a strong commitment to the community," Caton said. In the Howard community, Gilmore is a member of the Arts and Sciences Student Council and is the editor-in-chief of The Source, a monthly newsletter that includes stories on events put on by the student council. "Alisa is a very hard worker,"

said Rashunda Stripp, assistant communications director of the Council. "She will stay on you until the work is done." As if work and school are not enough, Alisa is also a member of Ubiquity, the oldest Afrocentric organization on Howard's campus. A large part of why she joined the organization was to strengthen her relationship with Black men.

"Ubiquity has changed my view of Black men," Gilmore said. "Before I saw Black men as only trying to holla, but since being a part of the organization I have a strong sense of brotherhood." Up until this semester, Gilmore was a member of Amnesty International. This is one of the defining experiences she has had since attending Howard. From the fall of 2002 until spring 2003, she worked on a HIV/AIDS campaign. She helped put together a strategy to present why HIV/AIDS is an important issue here in the United States and in Africa. After all of her commitments it seems impossible to enjoy a social life. When asked about what she does for recreation, Alisa chuckled at the thought of having time for it. In her spare time, she writes poetry as a means of relieving stress and also spends time with friends.

"I think Alisa is a very good friend who tends to put people before herself," said junior psychology major Sherrell Hicklen. "Not many people can juggle school, work, and being involved in so many organizations. She must be dedicated." After college, Gilmore plans on going to law school and eventually owning her own civil rights law firm.



Alisa Gilmore, a junior political science major, is thought of as dedicated and talented leader by her friends and coworkers.

EMPLOYEE of the WEEK

BY NICOLE M. MELTON
Contributing Writer

Sitting in one of Ronnie McGhee's architecture classes is like working at a real architecture firm. McGhee, associate professor of architecture, loads his courses with interactive lectures, guest speakers, site visits and historic preservation hearings just to name a few. According to McGhee, this type of learning challenges students and is a test to see if they truly want to be architects.

"Architecture is a rigorous field and I teach rigorous courses," McGhee said. "I have created comprehensive courses that cover everything you need to know about architecture. Students really get to see what it takes to be competitive in this industry."

And McGhee would know. He is the founder of his own architecture firm, R. McGhee and Associates, and he incorporates his expertise into personalized instruction.

"I'm an architect first. I don't consider myself a teacher," McGhee said. "I'm more of an architect that teaches. The material I'm teaching I know about personally. Teaching gives me the freedom to use my personal background in my courses."

McGhee became interested in architecture as a child, but decided to pursue a degree in anthropology at Northwestern University. After three years, he revisited his first love and transferred to Howard to receive a Bachelor of Arts in architecture. He launched his company in May 2000 and began teaching in 2001. As a Howard graduate, he uses his undergraduate experiences to design classes that he would have liked to take as a student.

"The courses I teach were different in the past," McGhee said. "The administration asked me to create them with a little more background. I make the courses how I would have liked them when I was in school."

Along with following a demanding course schedule, McGhee's students are also up against a higher grading scale. An "A" grade in McGhee's classes requires a 95 percent as opposed to the typical 90 percent. McGhee says his scale is just another way he challenges students to give their best and get involved.

"It sounds tough, and it is. But there have been students who get more than 100 percent because of extra credit opportunities," McGhee said. "We cover a lot of ground and there are extra credit assignments that allow students to gain firsthand experience in the field."

One such assignment would be to attend hearings of the Historic Preservation Review Board for the District of Columbia, of which McGhee is a member. Historic preservation and urban design are McGhee's major interests, along with community development.

"At my firm, I make sure to work on community projects that have both architectural and social components involved," McGhee said. "I'm a D.C. native and this is the place where I want to do my work. I take responsibility for things that are happening in the city by getting involved and doing projects that cater to the community's needs."

McGhee also sees the

See EMPLOYEE, News A5

ASSC Vice President Making Moves in DC

BY ASPEN STEIB
Contributing Writer

Of all the leaders on Power Hall, Danielle K. Perry is the youngest to make an impact.

As a junior political science major from Flossmoor, Ill., Perry has made a name for herself on campus. She is vice-president of the Arts and Sciences Student Council and is involved in HUSA, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Inc. and the Chicago People's Union.

"I think that Danielle is a highly industrious young lady that takes those qualities that are present and uses them to contribute to her future successes," said Steve Mobley, a senior legal communications major. "I know that whatever she puts her mind to she always gets or obtains and I am sure that she will go far in whatever else she does in her future."

Perry has been involved in student government since her freshman year at Howard when she served on the freshman class board as its treasurer. "I feel like as a student leader, I owe it to the University and my fellow colleagues to work as hard as possible to get their voices heard and provide them with their money's worth."

Not only is she heavily involved in activities on campus, but she has managed to perform well academically. Perry is a member of the Arts and Sciences Honors program, National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Golden Key International Honor Society.

Perry also believes in helping her fellow colleagues become successful scholars.

"I think there are a lot of issues with the level of academia in the College of Arts and Sciences, so I decided to run for an executive position on the council," Perry said. "Faith [the President of ASSC] came to me and we realized we had similar visions for the council and the differences we did have would compliment each other in making our college better."

According to her constituents, Perry has been doing a good job as ASSC vice-president.

"I believe Danielle is doing her duties especially her role in general assembly, I am proud of that," junior English major Raven Johnson said. "I think Danielle is down for Howard and she is a hard working person and a true blue Bison."

Perry said she is motivated by many different people to continue her work for the Howard community.

"Everybody around me motivates me to do something different. The brotherhood (of Phi Sigma Pi) motivates me to be scholarly. My friends all have different qualities that motivate me to change and improve my own life and my parents motivate me to strive for even more than they have accomplished, which is tremendous," Perry said.

In keeping with her proactive nature, Perry admitted that she would change some aspects of the current administration.

"I believe the administration does an excellent job acquiring resources, but does a poor job allocating those resources. We are being denied simple things that are important for a standard learning environment and I feel it's the administration's job to remedy these things," Perry said.

Perry has also proven to be an inspirational leader throughout the campus.

"Danielle is a very no-nonsense type of person in the sense of leadership," said Jamar Dowdy, a junior political science major. "She is probably one of the best leaders I have interacted with on Howard's campus."

Perry's ultimate goal in life is to become a United States Senator and write a major bill changing the funding of public schools.

Berok Art and Clothing Given Two Thumbs Up

BY AYANA SINGHATEH
Contributing Writer

Born and raised in the Southside of Chicago, sophomore fine arts major Brock Horne is the originator of Berok art and fashion.

He's worked with art design ever since he was a child and started his own art and fashion line both titled Berok.

"I grew up around the arts," Horne said. Berok fashions have been displayed in the 2003 and 2004 Howard Homecoming Fashion shows.

"People hear about my clothing and paintings by word of mouth," Horne said. Those who wear Berok clothing or have seen the clothing or paintings have many good things to say about it.

Leslie Robinson, an international business major, said that Berok clothing was something she's never seen. "It was eye catching and something I would purchase," Robinson said.

Howard Homecoming fashion shows are not the only place

Berok has been put on display. The designer has displayed his paintings at art shows as well.

"I used to display my paintings at art exhibits back in Chicago," Horne said. He puts all his time and effort into his designs. "My art defines how I am feeling at the time, my art is my expressions," Horne said.

Vibrant colors, abstract patterns, emotional images and beautiful art series are some descriptions of Berok paintings. Acrylic, spray paint, oils and charcoal are just some of the supplies that Horne uses to create his artwork pieces.

"I work pretty fast," Horne said. "I have no main motivation but when it comes to fashion, I like to follow the urban vibe."

Berok fashion designs consist of multicolor hand painted designs. Horne makes t-shirts, jeans, belts, jackets, shoes and more.

The prices of Berok paintings depend on the painting selection. Available in both male and female clothing, Berok fashions start at \$25 and rise depending

on the item.

Horne plans to make a career with his artistic talent.

"This dude has skills," said Chayne Coston, a biology major. "I always get compliments when I wear Berok clothing."

Robinson added, "Horne is a creative, determined individual and willing to make a name for him."

Horne has many goals planned for his future, even though he has already accomplished much now such as Berok art and fashion.

"I want to have my own show displaying my designs and I want to incorporate my art and fashion," Horne said. "I want to have an audience for my expressions."

To get more information about Berok fashion you can send an e-mail to Berokraffiti@hotmail.com.

Brock Horne, a sophomore fine arts major, said growing up around the arts lead to his passion for art and clothing design.



Students Discontented With Exam Costs for GRE

GRE, from Campus A1

"I paid \$599 for my prep class," said Ebony Wright, a history graduate student. "And, while my results were better than when I studied for it on my own, I wouldn't say that it was such a significant increase in my score that warranted me paying \$600. Also, I don't know if [the higher score] was because of the prep class or simply because I had taken the exam before."

Some students think that

the classes are worth every penny paid for them.

"My course charted out a schedule for me, and helped to guide me through the process of studying effectively," said Bryan Sampson, a senior political science major, who is currently taking classes at Kaplan. "Basically, that is the essence of what they teach you, not how to take the exam, but rather how to study for the exam effectively."

Despite the high costs of these courses, some students

still think that it is in their best interest to have the prep. Students who are trying to receive fellowships, scholarships, assistantships and other types of financial aid are especially concerned with maximizing their scores.

"I would definitely take a prep class," said Leslie Curtis, a junior economics major. "Anything that makes me better prepared to take the exam and score higher is worth my money."

AIDS Seminar Poorly Attended

AIDS, from Campus A1

Kevin Johnson-Azuara, president of the African Students Association expressed his disappointment in student attendance at the event. He felt as though

the event was very relevant to Howard students.

"Howard University, the premier Black institution, as such turnout should have been better," Johnson-Azuara said. "ASA planned this program since

May. We felt it was imperative to increase awareness not only about AIDS in Africa but also in Washington, D.C. We had hoped that more organizations would have done events to commemorate World AIDS Day."

Some Students Stress Over Finals

FINALS, from Campus A1

to sleep a lot and eat properly."

Unfortunately, some students are completely worried about certain exams. "There needs to be a better review for departmental exams," said Jazminne Wynn, a sophomore political science major. "My Spanish final is departmental and I feel that on test day I will

be saying 'yo no se.'"

Esther Khan, a Spanish professor, suggests that students study the most important things like verb conjugation and grammar.

Sharon Fletcher, instructor of reading and study skills in the Center for Academic Reinforcement, urges students to create index cards that can double as flash cards. "In history

for example, have the date on one side and what happened on that day on the other," she said.

Also, Fletcher reminds students to find out when and where their exams are being held.

"I wish all the students that are taking finals, good luck," Khan said. "Remember not to get nervous. Just relax and do your best."

Security Issues With Smart Rooms

REPAIR, from Campus A2

In addition to upkeep, security has also been an issue with the smart rooms as various smart rooms have been vandalized and robbed of valuable equipment. The chemistry building's smart room, Room 108, is actually currently out of service because it was vandalized twice in three months. Jesse Nicholson, chair of the chemistry department, said that two projectors and a

monitor were stolen in the incidents.

"Right now we are trying to address the problem of security before we put in any more equipment," Nicholson said.

Security of the smart rooms is the responsibility of Physical Facilities Management, according to King. King said that security problems have yet to be properly responded to. Though King acknowledged some of the difficulties of maintaining the

smart rooms, he also said that students and faculty also had some accountability for their preservation. He said students should not trash the rooms and faculty members should make sure they use the equipment appropriately.

"My desire is that we would do a better job of taking responsibility to make sure rooms are functioning properly and they are clean," King said.

B2B Conference Reaches Out to Youth in D.C. Area

YOUTH, from Campus A1

proactive. It's nothing wrong with abstaining. We understand their hormones are raging, so at least be safe if abstinence is not an option."

The day-long event included Nelson Santiago of Howard's Admission/Enrollment who stressed the importance of college and the possibilities for students who attended, while African-American Studies Professor Greg Carr, Ph.D., examined the portrayal of Blacks in the media. Along with hot wings, DJ Premonition, and a guest speaker at the luncheon, the winners of the conference's essay contest were announced, as the grand prize winner received a new computer.

"I was thrilled to bring my students to the conference because I thought it sent a good message," said chaperone Chandra Tillman, director of the after school program at Hyde Leadership Public Charter School. "A lot of our male students don't have positive male role models, so I wanted to let them see young men who were about something and just to have this experience."

The conference made preparations to extend its effect much further than one day as Trina



Tia Goodson-Staff Photographer

Tuesday's Brother to Brother Conference held seminars on health, finance and the state of the Black man.

Scott of Metro Teen AIDS and a Howard alumnae said, "We have to dispel some of the many myths these guys hear about sex and disease. In D.C., one in 45 young people ages 13-24 has HIV. It's all about making healthy choices. Our organization offers HIV testing beginning at age 13 without parental consent and the only way to know your status is to get tested."

Leaving the next generation of males with empowerment,

t-shirts, and a day away from the worries of school, coordinators of the event looked to the future, even before the conference ended.

"It's only going to get bigger next year," said Ugi Ugwuomo, conference chairman. "We are thinking of expanding to two or three days. We used music and other ways to connect us with these students and we want to do as much as we can to help."

Professor Finds Pleasure in Architecture

EMPLOYEE, from Campus A4

importance of increasing the number of minority architects in the industry. He believes that Howard can give today's students the same competitive edge that it him when he graduated.

"When I left Howard, my skills matched up with everybody else out there," McGhee said. "I tell students about my experiences as a minority architect because there is still racism in the industry. That's just a fact of life. There are only one or two

Black firms a year that work on major projects. I'm hoping that out of these students come people that will break that barrier."

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Post-Baccalaureate
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The Homecoming Policy Board is pleased to announce the selection for the 2005 of Homecoming Program:

Ms. Felicia Crabtree- Homecoming Steering Committee Chair
Mr. Jason Foster-Homecoming Treasurer

Any students interested in working with next year's homecoming need to check with the Office of Student Activities for application information, Blackburn Center Suite 117.

Dear Lauryn...



Dear Lauryn is *The Hilltop's* advice column catered towards college students and written by a voice that understands. Lauryn, the voice, gives advice with a dash of urban edge that leaves the reader entertained yet informed. This column tackles issues of the average college student including career choices, sex, grades, parents and dating. Letters can be sent to dearlauryn_hu@yahoo.com

Dear Lauryn,

Oh my God, you've got to help me. During my college tour they warned me of the freshman 15, but no one told me about the freshman 30. I could have sworn walking up the hill was a workout. Besides the fact that I feel like a cow, I'm afraid of the response that I'll get from my family and friends at home. I've always been the cute petite one, what will they think of me now? Lauryn, I dread the day I have to get off of that plane. Advice is needed ASAP.

-Thickness

Dear Thickness,

Well what can I say, the battle of the bulge gets the best of all of us. It's especially easy

Tuition Increase, Students Pay More for the Same Education

BY ANIKA E. SANDY-HANSON
Contributing Writer

Howard University, like most institutions of higher education, has seen a constant rise in its expenses. Thus, tuition has also risen steadily and is likely to do so for the upcoming school year as well. The process of making this decision has already begun with the convening of the Tuition and Rates Advisory Committee (TRAC).

In explaining the role of her committee Chairwoman Carole Borggren explains, "The TRAC makes its recommendations to the CFO and to the President regarding tuition and other rates charged by the University. The President makes his formal recommendation to the Board of Trustees, which retains final authority for setting tuition and other rates for the University."

The TRAC is convened every year to ensure that issues around this important decision are discussed with a group drawn from throughout the university community. Two students are always members; the HUSA President and the GSA President/coordinator. The members of this body must meet and discuss issues pertinent to the University's budget and the tuition and fees that comprise a portion of Howard's revenue.

Although tuition can be a significant portion of a student's budget, this income accounts for slightly more than 27 percent of the operating cost for the University. Support from many sources, including an annual appropriation from the federal government, grants, gifts and endowments provide the bulk of the resources that sustain the plethora of academic and other programs

that make up the Howard experience.

According to Borggren "The first thing that Howard does with tuition revenue is return a substantial portion of it to the students in the form of University-funded financial aid, with the result that net tuition revenue actually supports less than 20 percent of Howard's annual costs." The National Association of Independent Colleges and University's (NAICU) believes that these costs are likely to rise substantially due to increases in energy, insurance, educational resources and technology.

However, these expenses are ones from which students are unlikely to see direct benefits. Instead, students feel as though they are constantly being asked to give without getting anything back.

"It makes me feel like when you go to a church and they keep asking for money, but you only see superficial changes," says Hasim Dawkins, Senior Neurophysiology/Pre-Med major at the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP), "I did see an addition onto the biology building, but that was before the tuition increase so I still don't know where my money is going," Dawkins said. He and his colleagues at UMCP were surprised when their institution increased tuition in the middle of the semester last year.

Howard students who pay for their education feel the strain of tuition increases. This burden is a concern for policy makers such as Borggren and her committee "setting the tuition and other fees paid by our students is one of the most important decisions the University must make every year."

The Board, the president, the CFO and everyone else involved in this decision is always mindful that attending college is one

of the largest financial commitments a student and his or her family can make, that tuition increases do indeed place a burden on many students and their families, and that we have a responsibility to ensure that a Howard education remains accessible to all the talented individuals who have earned the privilege of attending Howard.

As a member of the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA), Nicole J. Taylor feels the strain of her fellow students. "I believe that continual increases of fees or tuition threaten to undermine Howard's reputation as an affordable Research One institution," said Taylor, a Ph.D. student in English. "These increases are balanced by increases in quality," said Chontrese Doswell, associate dean for Recruitment Mentoring and Support Programs in the Graduate School. "Graduate programs are typically more expensive to operate than undergraduate programs."

With research being the fundamental enterprise, they require specialized training and state-of-the art technology to address the educational needs of their graduate students. Increases in tuition rates are often met with mixed reaction; however, the increased revenue will serve to ultimately enhance the quality of graduate student success."

It is amongst these multi-faceted contexts that the TRAC committee, the president, and the Board of Trustees must make a decision concerning tuition. Students are urged to view the tuition statistics listed at the GSA website, www.howardgsa.com, and then complete the survey that will be used to determine the GSA recommendation to the TRAC committee.

Preparing for the MCAT Admissions

BY KENDRA TURNER
Contributing Writer

The Medical College Admissions Test or MCAT is a standardized, multiple-choice exam created to evaluate critical thinking skills, writing skills and problem solving skills. The test also evaluates student's comprehension of science concepts and principles needed for the study of medicine.

According to www.aamc.org, the categories of testing are verbal reasoning, physical sciences, writing sample, and biological sciences. Like many other institutions of higher learning, Howard uses MCAT scores as a key factor in the admission decision into medical school.

MCAT testing for Howard University students in the Pre-Medical Program is scheduled for April 16, 2005. Some pre-med students may not be aware of the numerous resources available to them to help them prepare.

A. Harris, assistant coordinator Pre-Professional Education of the Center for Pre-Professional Education stated, "The center has workshops to help prepare." According to Ms. Harris, the Center of Pre-Professional

Education works in conjunction with the College of Medicine, the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Dentistry to arrange for the Princeton Review to conduct review sessions on campus at a reduced rate.

Usually, Princeton Review classes for the MCAT are priced at approximately \$1,499 per class. However, Howard University offers these classes for the subsidized rate of \$775. Unfortunately, this price is higher than it has been in past years, but this year Howard did not receive the Health Careers Opportunities grant, which usually subsidizes the price to the lower hundreds.

The MCAT Spring Review begins Jan. 19, 2005 and it runs until April 11, 2005. There is also a review course in summer 2005 and runs from June to August. Even if a student can not attend the review course at a certain location, the center can arrange for the class to be taken at a Princeton Review location.

Students in need of preparation shouldn't panic, if they can't afford the \$775 for the Princeton Review class, there are other options. In the fall, there is a free simulated exam, and after the exam has been graded an



Medical students prepare for their future by preparing for the highly competitive Medical School admissions test the MCAT.

assessment of students' strength and weaknesses are given.

Harris said, "The center has a free test prep lab. In the lab, there are test preparation materials available for students to study on their own. The center even lets students sign out materials. They also offer admissions workshops to help students further prepare and arrange programs in which students are allowed to shadow a physician at

the Howard University Hospital, which has also been found to help with MCAT testing."

Of course students have to be diligent in setting aside time to study the materials; the center can only do so much. Harris said, "The problem is students do not have the discipline to come on their own or they show up to Princeton Review classes and

See MCAT, News A7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPONSOR: Retention, Sciences, Political Science, Mentoring and Support Business and Management Programs Science, International Relations

SEMINAR: Moving from DATE: December 6, 2004
ABT/ABD to Ph.D.

DATE/TIME: December 2, CONTACT: Dr.
2004, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pat Cole, 806-4676,
pcoleholliday@howard.edu for
more information on date/times/
locations for Rand Corporation
Interviews

LOCATION: Graduate DEADLINE: Direct
School, Smart Conference Room Submission - December 2, 2004
205 *****
Other Announcements

CONTACT: Dr. Pat Cole, The deadline for Proposals
pcoleholliday@howard.edu; for the Deaf Women & HIV/
806-4676 AIDS in Africa

***** Conference, June 10-
12, 2005 at the Gallaudet
University Kellogg Center,
is Dec. 10, 2004. For more
information, visit www.deaf-africanwomen.org.

INTERVIEWS: Rand Associates Internship Program in Engineering, Physical & Mathematical Sciences, Education, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Economics, Health and Medical

School of Education Ranked Among the Top in the Nation

BY TIFFANY A. BOLDEN
Contributing Writer

According to www.howard.edu/schooleducation, the School of Education is a premiere national urban program focusing on issues of diversity. The School of Education deals with preparing teachers, educational leaders and human support professionals for urban and diverse settings related to students who are underserved.

The School of Education has one of the top ranked teaching degrees for graduate students according to the National Council for Accreditation of Teaching Education (NCATE), the standard of excellence in teacher preparation.

Accreditation is voluntary and not all colleges of education attain it. High quality teacher preparation is increasingly being equated with NCATE accreditation, setting accredited institutions apart as those, which have earned a distinction not earned by all teacher preparation institutions, according to ncate.org.

Vinetta Jones, dean of the School of Education, explained that Howard is the premiere institution for addressing

the huge shortage of qualified teachers committed to teaching in urban and diverse areas in this area.

"This is the reason our students are so sought after," Jones said. "The School of Education has had an opportunity to be role models, implementing faculty training and technology to assist [the School of Education administration] in implementing school wide performance assessment plans needed for continuing program improvement and accreditation."

Technology is not only used to assist the School of Education administration, but the school places emphasis on technology as a focus area for student preparation for teaching in urban and other diverse classrooms for bachelor, masters and doctoral levels. Math and science, special education, bilingual, reading, conflict resolution and mediation are other areas the school prepares for teachers.

"People come from around the country recruiting our students because of the understanding, skills, and commitment they bring when working with students," Jones said.

Students in the program agree. "I chose the School of Education because

I wanted to teach. During freshman orientation, a lady in the hotel I stayed in told me Howard's teaching program was excellent [which] solidified my decision. Howard has a great reputation with the D.C. Public School System," said Ayanna Stewart, a fifth year graduate student enrolled in the Early Childhood teaching program.

The School of Education utilizes many recruitment efforts to increase the pool of individuals going into teaching. Rosa Trapp-Dail, chair of the department of Curriculum and Instruction, said, "Two of the leading recruitment efforts include an open house and orientation. The open house is held twice a year and is open to both the university and the community; the orientation is held annually."

Howard graduates have theoretical and practical knowledge and common sense. "D.C. public school teachers say teachers coming out of Howard are very prepared and are the best with working with inner city students attending D.C. public schools," Stewart said.

"We work with local school districts and we write grants to make it possible



Vinetta Jones, dean of the School of Education, stresses the importance of Howard students teaching in urban area. Jones is excited about the program that the School of Education has to offer to future educators.

See RANK, News A7

Med School Prepares For the Future

MCAT, from Graduate A6

don't do the homework." She went on to say, "Students have to do their part too."

Even though the College of Medicine is not involved in student preparation for the MCAT, and deals with students who have already taken it, Floyd Malveaux, dean of the College of Medicine states, that the College of Medicine is available to advise students on the classes to take that will prove to be most helpful for excelling as a medical student and on the MCAT exam. However, Malveaux stressed that "the Center for Pre-Professional

Education assumes responsibility for preparing students for the MCAT."

William Eckberg, chairman of the department of Biology similarly stated that the department of Biology's sole purpose is not to prepare students for the MCAT, and medical school but rather to adequately equip them with the knowledge needed to pursue a career in any of the science fields. Like Malveaux, he agrees that the bulk of the responsibility for test preparation lies with the center. Eckberg went on to say "students have said programs at the center have been very helpful."

Urban Education Among the Top

RANK, from Graduate A6

for more students to attend. Our Transition to Teaching Program was made possible because of our efforts," Jones said.

The Transition to Teaching Program is an alternative certification program, funded by the Department of Education, designed to recruit talented and committed recent college graduates and mid-career professionals to be trained as teachers and placed in public schools in the metropolitan area. For more information, log on to www.transitiontoteaching.org.

In addition to recruitment efforts, Trapp-Dail explained that due to vacancies in faculty; more graduate assistants are hired, thus making a big difference.

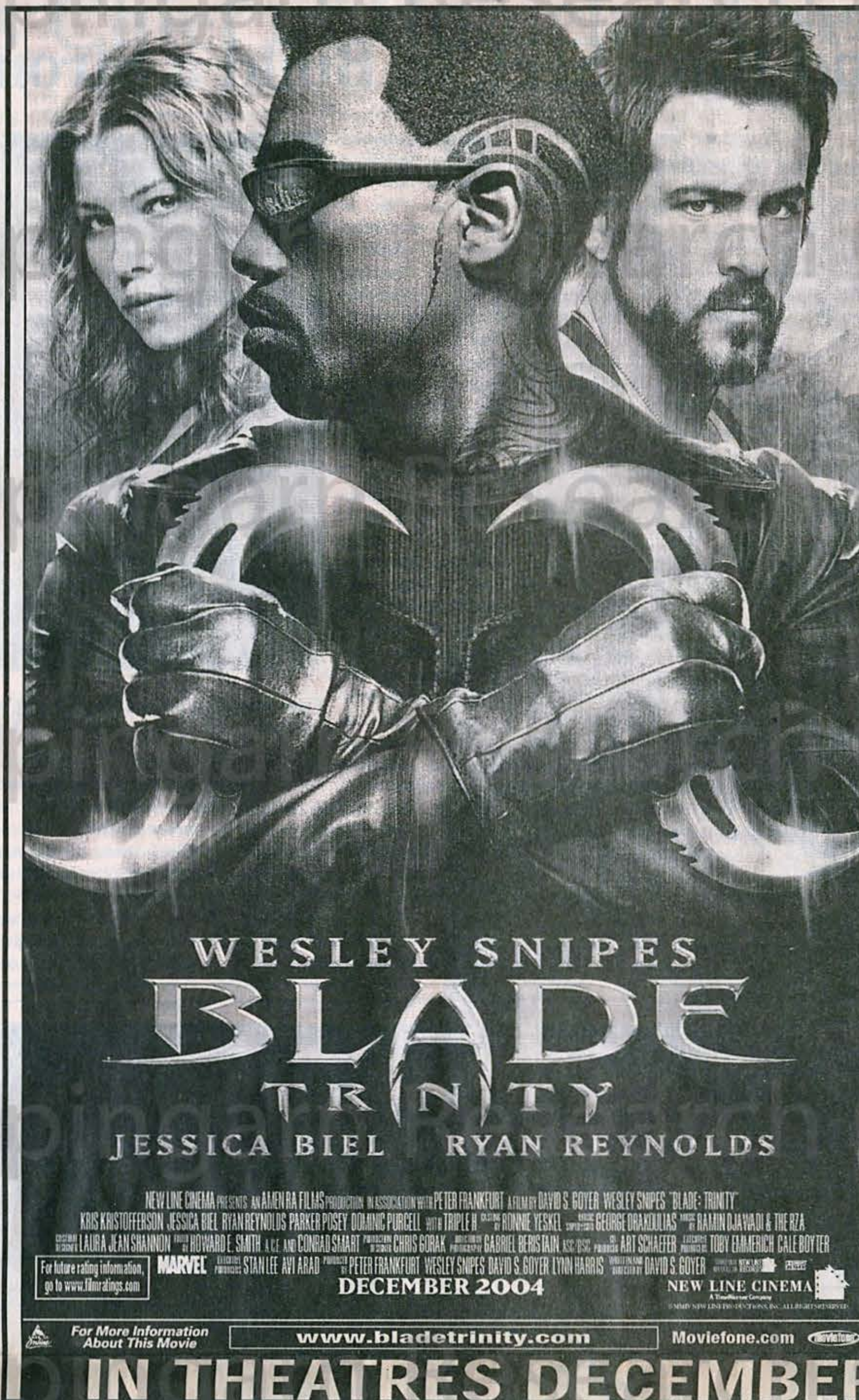
"I always wanted to work with children and my minor in undergrad [Howard University] School of Communication was Human Development, so that's how I became interested in the

teaching program in the graduate school. The people in this Department [of Curriculum and Instruction] were also very helpful," said Kendra Edwards, first year graduate student in the Elementary Education Program and current Graduate Assistant.

"Graduate students make a big difference. They assist with teaching and research and they also provide professional development among students," Trapp-Dail said. Graduate students also give Trapp-Dail time to be creative and work on seeking funding for recruitment.

"The biggest recruitment need is money. Seventy-five percent of graduate students are working students," Trapp-Dail said.

"Teachers and preachers were among the first graduates of Howard University [therefore] the history of preparing students for these careers goes back to Howard's very founding," Jones said.



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IN THEATRES DECEMBER 8TH

To the Graduate Section Editor, Tori Scarborough:
No words can express how much we have appreciated you this semester. You have been a voice of reason and laughter to all of us. Thank you so much for always working hard and bringing the Graduate prespective to the paper. Even though you are leaving for bigger and better things, you will always be a part of The Hilltop family. We love you, Tori!

The Hilltop Staff

Bush and Rove Seek to Build a Stronger Economic Team

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

President Bush sought to reshape his economic team Tuesday when he announced that Carlos M. Gutierrez, the chief executive of the Kellogg cereal company, will be nominated to replace Donald L. Evans as secretary of commerce.

Gutierrez's nomination was a surprise to many inside Washington and broke a trend for the president, who has filled all vacancies for his second term with someone already working in the White House. Political analysts believe going outside the White House for this nomination was deliberate because the president and his senior adviser Karl Rove are said to be unhappy with the performance of Bush's economic team during the first term.

Administration officials told The Washington Post that Bush and Rove are looking to build a stronger economic team that will successfully sell Bush's campaign promises to reform social security and simplify the tax code.

Bush was confident that Gutierrez is the right man to help his administration accom-

plish their lofty goals during a second term. "With Carlos's leadership, we'll help more Americans, especially minorities and women, to start and grow their own small business," Bush said in a White House press conference nominating Gutierrez. Bush went on to say that Gutierrez was "a great American success story" and said he "will take office at a time of historic opportunity for our changing economy."

Gutierrez's appointment also signaled an aggressive desire from the White House to promote minorities. Bush recently nominated Alberto Gonzales to replace John Ashcroft as attorney general, and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice is expected to become the first African-American woman to head the State Department. The President is expected to reshuffle more than half of his cabinet, which leaves open the possibility that even more minorities will receive appointments during Bush's second term.

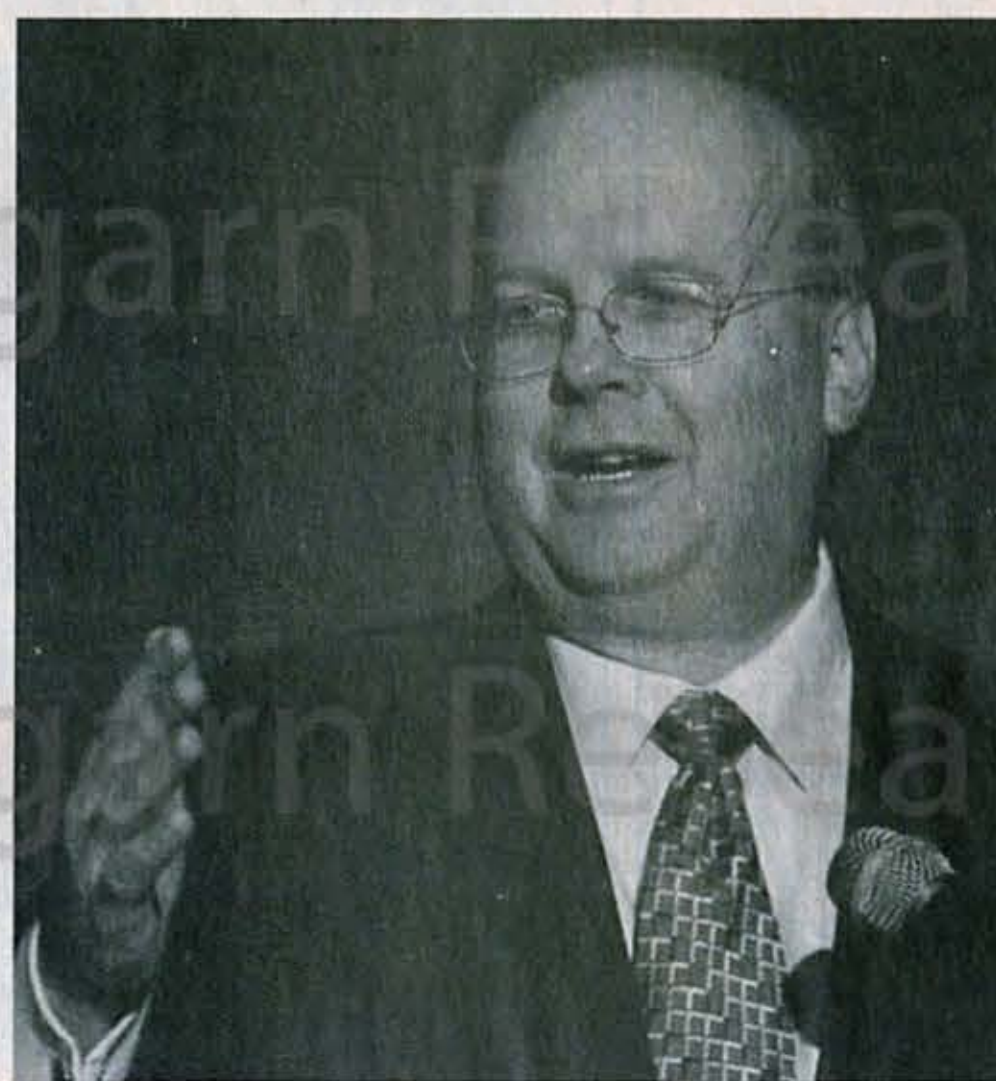
During his nomination ceremony, Gutierrez told reporters that he left Cuba more than 40 years ago and began his career with Kellogg by selling cereal out of a van in Mexico City. In

1999, he was named president and chief executive of the company. He is credited with revitalizing the Kellogg Company, turning it into a corporate titan using savvy business deals and strict fiscal management. Gutierrez also broadened the company's focus from selling only cereal products.

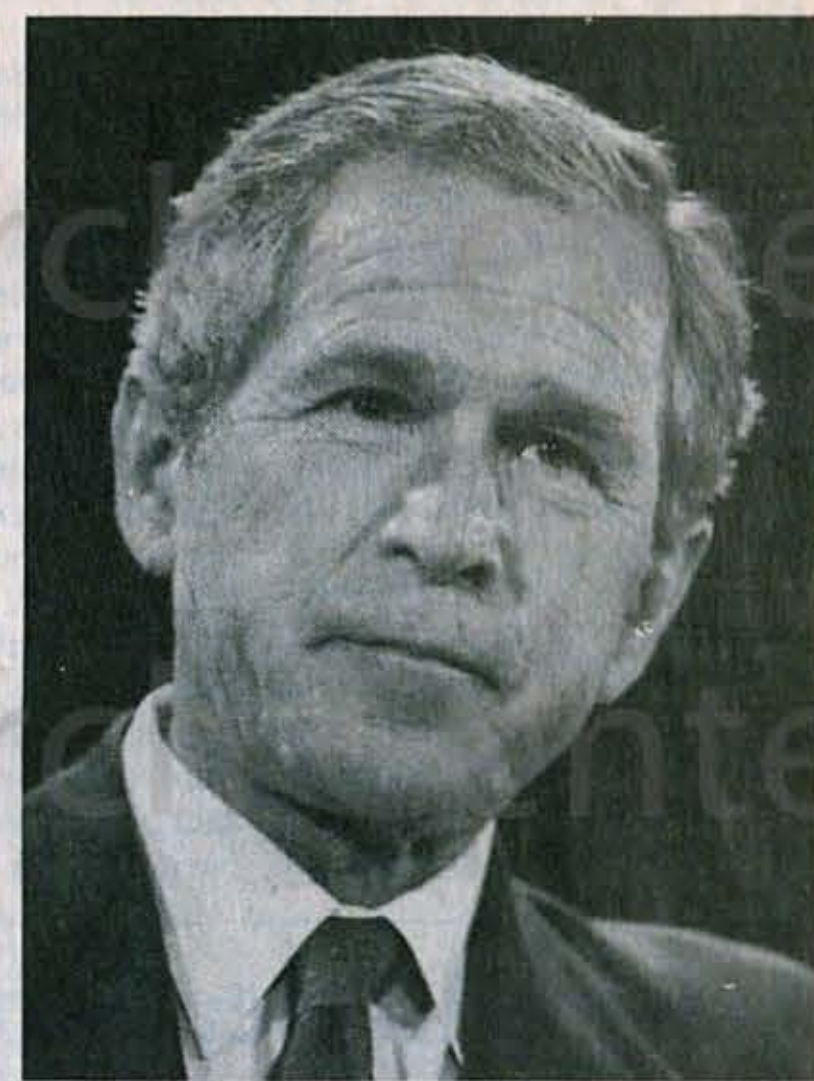
His background as a salesman is exactly what the president was looking for, said many White House aides. They are basing this assumption on the White House's tendency to only use Bush's economic team to promote policy rather than shape it. This will be crucial, because the President's proposals for reforming social security and the tax code are expected to face stiff opposition in Congress. White House officials told The Washington Post that Bush has met with Gutierrez on

several occasions since becoming president and was always impressed by him.

Bush made the decision to nominate Gutierrez last week while vacationing at his Texas Ranch. In the coming weeks, more cabinet shake-ups are expected to pour out of the



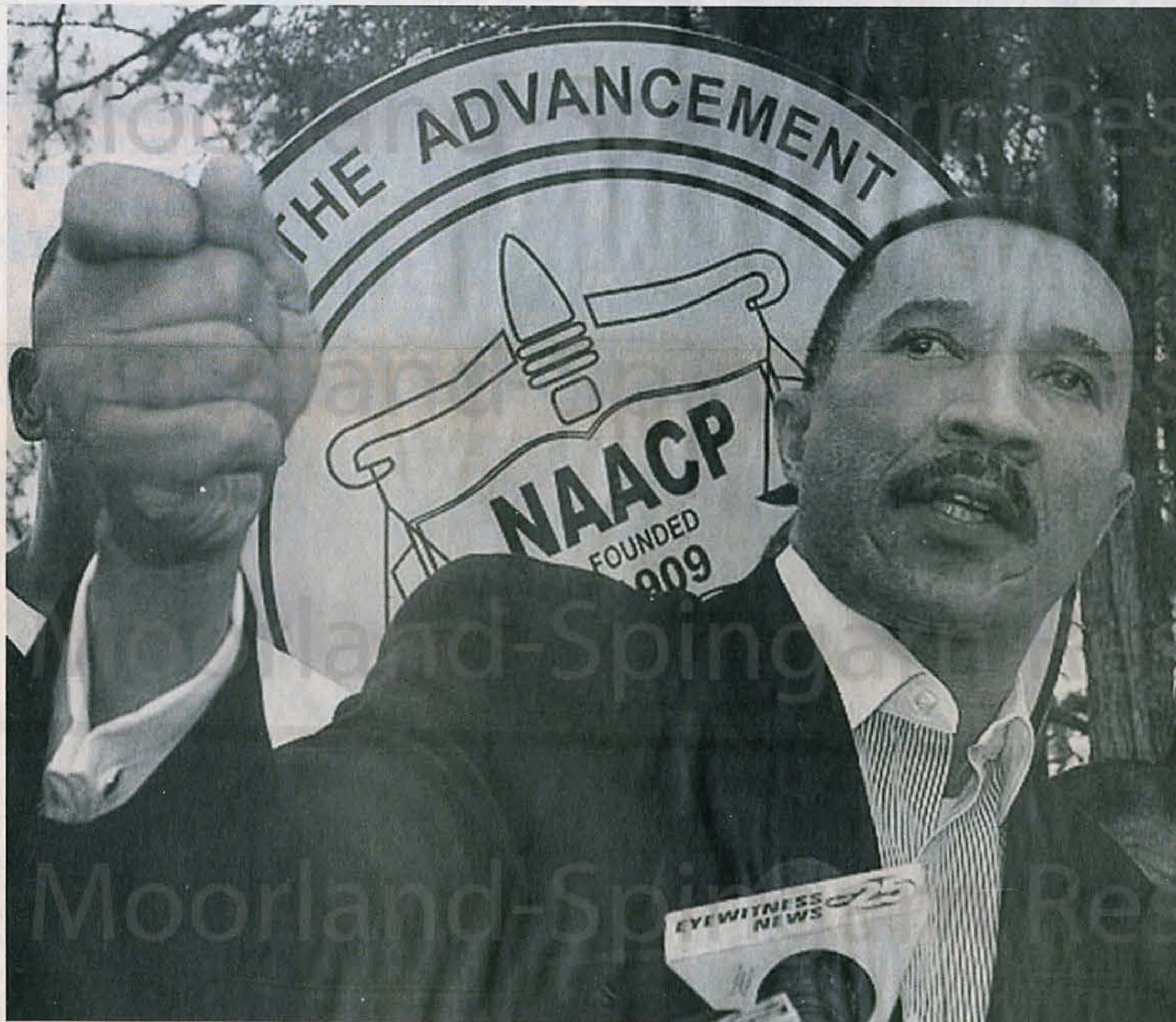
Rove is said to be pushing for a stronger economic team in Bush's second term. President Bush intends to turn over nearly half of his cabinet during his second term.



www.cnn.com

White House. Treasury secretary John W. Snow is expected to announce his resignation. There is already speculation that New York's Governor George E. Pataki may receive consideration as a possible replacement for Snow. Pataki has said he is not interested

in the job, and many pundits predict he is more likely to run for president in 2008 or possibly challenge Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) for her senate seat in 2006.



Mfume resigned from the NAACP after nine years, citing fatigue and a need to spend more time with his family.

Mfume Steps Down From NAACP

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

Nine years after he took over the post, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, resigned Tuesday from the helm of the nation's leading civil rights organization citing fatigue and a desire to spend more time with his family. "My youngest son is 14. He was five when I started this. Life is so short. I don't want to miss another basketball game or PTA [meeting]," said Mfume at a press conference held at the NAACP's Baltimore headquarters. "I'm just leaving to take a break. In my heart of hearts, I know it's time."

Mfume denied reports suggesting his resignation was due to clashes with NAACP chairman Julian Bond. "This is not about some internal squabble. Julian and I worked together everyday. I will miss him," Mfume said. Legal Counsel Dennis Hayes will serve as acting president when Mfume's resignation officially begins in January of next year. Speculation has already begun to surface on what Mfume will do next, after he has had a break.

Some predict he may return to Congress and is considering a run for the Senate seat

of Maryland Sen. Paul Serbanes. Mfume did not deny an interest in the seat, and told reporters "If it happens, it happens." He added, "It is not part of a grand design today. This is not about a great job to go to or office to run for." Before becoming the head of the NAACP in 1996, Mfume served in the House of Representatives, as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mfume took pride in his tenure as president of the 96-year-old civil rights organization, and told reporters that the NAACP was burdened with debt totaling more than \$3 million when he took over as president. "When I arrived, the NAACP was mired in debt and steeped in doubt," Mfume said. "Now...there is \$15 million in cash reserves and a flourishing endowment of several million more. I've had the honor and the privilege to help revive and restore this great organization, which has become an American institution." He added, "At the end of the day, we all did what we could to make a change that will be remembered."

In addition to erasing the NAACP's debt, Mfume has been credited with leading the organization in several civil rights lawsuits against giant companies such as

Cracker Barrel. He also helped to encourage officials in Florida to investigate alleged voting irregularities during the 2000 election. Despite the success the organization has experienced during Mfume's tenure, he leaves during a period of uncertainty for the NAACP.

In October, the NAACP learned that it was being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for allegedly being involved in partisan politics. The investigation stems mostly from comments Bond made publicly about the Bush administration. Because the IRS investigation began after Bonds' comments, many within the organization found the probe suspicious. "We do question the suspicious timing of the action," said Bond to reporters after the investigation story broke earlier this year. "The timing, the vagueness, the assertion that criticism is enough reason to test whether we should seek our tax-exemption-it doesn't pass the small test."

In an effort to ease the tensions between the NAACP and the Bush administration, various news outlets reported that Mfume sent a congratulatory letter to President Bush after he won re-election.

World Briefs

Alabama Laws Still Hold Onto Jim Crow Laws

With only a difference of less than 2,000 voters in the recent Nov. 2 elections, Alabama will hold on to the education Jim Crow-era laws that remains in their state constitution. The Alabama Constitution has stated since the 1950s that the legislature must establish a public school system that has separate schools for white and colored children. The amendment would also have required the changing of language that denies every citizen of Alabama the right to public education. Although the laws are not implemented, it has ignited a wave of controversy. Claims have been made that a backlash of increased taxes would result from the change of the wording; however, contrary claims insist a tax increase is highly unlikely and that the laws ought to be changed to reflect "today's nation." A recount is scheduled to take place Monday because of the close margin.

Iran Freezes Nuclear Program

Hassan Rohani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, announced that his country will freeze their uranium-enrichment program long enough to accomplish negotiations with Europe. He said the suspension was "voluntary to create trust." The International Atomic Energy Agency has implemented a resolution that maps out their role in assuring Iran's agreement is valid. The U.S. holds the position that Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons. President George W. Bush said the freeze is a "positive step" but that it should not be the final. Mohamed ElBaradei, IAEA head, urges Iran to prove their sincerity that the program is for "peaceful purposes" so worldwide nations can be reassured of their safety.

Bush Visits Canada

President George W. Bush received a "warm and hospitable" welcome to

Ottawa, Canada Tuesday. He and Prime Minister Paul Martin dismissed accusations that there are complications in the two countries' political relationship. In reference to the tensions from Canada not supporting Bush's invasion of Iraq, he said that he is "the kind of fellow who does what he thinks is right, and will continue to do what I think is right." The two leaders agreed to work "in a practical way toward common goals" such as border security and resolving trade disputes. Martin did express his qualms of the ban currently prevent the importations of cows from Canada to the U.S. The ban was a result of the 2003 mad cow disease discovered in Washington state. Bush said he cannot lift the ban until the White House Office of Management and Budget reviews proposed Agriculture Department regulations.

Testimony Begins in Texas's Deadliest Smuggling

The Texas trial of three people involved in the largest and deadliest smuggling operation ever began this week. There have been a total of 14 people indicted in connection with the operation that smuggled 74 undocumented immigrants in the back of a trailer last May. Heat and oxygen deprivation resulted in the death of 19 immigrants who had been traveling for over four hours from Mexico. The truck was recovered after a man reported clothes being waved out of the window of a trailer parked at a truck stop. Victor Jesus Rodriguez, 40; Claudia Carrizales de Villa, 35; and Fredy Giovanni Garcia Tobar, 24, have been charged with conspiracy in an attempt to harbor and transport undocumented immigrants that resulted in serious injury or death and three counts each of aiding and abetting. Five of the 14 people indicted last year plead guilty to their part in the operation, four are awaiting trial in Mexico City, and one is awaiting trial in Houston.

Ridge Resigns as Chief of Homeland Security

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

In a continuous shake-up of President Bush's cabinet, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announced Tuesday that he will resign. In a letter given to President Bush Tuesday morning, Ridge informed the president of his decision and said he would continue to serve until a successor is confirmed. "I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve my country with the President as its leader," said Ridge at a press confer-

ence Tuesday. Shortly after informing the President, Ridge relayed the message to officials at his department. In an e-mail, Ridge praised the department and said it was a privilege to work with the nearly 200,000 men and women who serve there. He said the department was "an extraordinary organization that each day contributes to keeping America safe and free." He reiterated his fondness for the agency during Tuesday's press conference, saying Homeland Security was more than a department.

"Homeland Security has never been to me just a department. It's about the integration of a country, taking the resources, the capabilities and the capacities we have and making sure they are all engaged in a fundamental way, in a certain way that collectively we as a country are safer and more secure," he said.

At least five other names have been mentioned as possible replacements, including Asa Hutchinson, the undersecretary of homeland security for border and transportation security. Other names include, Bernard Kerik (Interim interior

minister for Iraq and former New York police commissioner), Joe Allbaugh (former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency), Mike Leavitt (Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency), and Fran Townsend (Homeland Security Adviser to President Bush). Despite the long list of potential replacements, many concede the post may be hard to fill. "It's not a very appealing assignment quite frankly, because if there is a terrorist attack, which many have expected for a long time, certainly the person in that position takes some blame, rightly or wrongly," said reporter Ceci Connelly to Fox News.

Lawmakers praised Ridge, but said they hoped that whoever succeeds him is given the necessary tools to do their job properly. "Tom Ridge is a decent man and a fine public servant but unfortunately was not given the leeway or resources to tighten up homeland security the way it should be done," said Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) in a written statement. "We hope that whoever the administration chooses to succeed him will be given the tools needed to really do the job."

Ridge is the first person to head Homeland Security. The department was created in 2003 and merged 180,000 employees from more than 20 government agencies. Before coming to Washington, Ridge served as governor of Pennsylvania where he was re-elected five times. With Tuesday's announcement, Ridge became the seventh cabinet member to resign since President Bush won re-election. Attorney General John Ashcroft, Education Secretary Rod Paige, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, and Secretary of State Colin Powell have also resigned.



www.dhs.gov

Ridge is the first person to serve as the Secretary for Homeland Security. He plans to return to the private sector and earn more money to send his children to college.

Rather's Retirement Leaves Void at CBS

BY TEVIE MONK
Contributing Writer

Dan Rather announced his retirement last week as anchor and managing editor of CBS Evening News, leaving much speculation as to who will replace him. The anchor of CBS Evening News confirmed that he will leave the network in March 2005, on the 24th anniversary of his first broadcast as news anchor for the program.

Rather's retirement comes after a series of embarrassing events regarding a report about President Bush's dismissal from the Texas Air National Guard. The reports, which negatively portrayed the president and suggested he received help getting into the Texas Air National Guard, were later found to be based on forged documents. After reporting the story, CBS was unable to confirm the authenticity of the documents and along with Rather, had to admit that they were negligent in their reporting of the story. The debacle was a major embarrassment for the network and threatened to permanently tarnish the legacy of one of America's most renowned journalists.

Though Rather's coverage of the story caused mountains of bad publicity for the network, Rather and CBS contend his resignation is a "mutual" decision and not related to the erroneous report. The reporter says that he will continue working with CBS as a correspondent for 60 Minutes.

"I have always said that I'd know when the time was right to step away from the anchor chair," Rather said in a written statement. "This past summer, CBS and I decided that the close of the election cycle would be an appropriate time."

Although Rather's resignation has been confirmed, CBS has yet to announce a replacement. CBS News President Andrew Heyward and Chairman Leslie Moonves have said that a replacement for Rather will not be limited to individuals already working for the network. Brit Hume of Fox News, Ted Koppel of ABC and Matt Lauer of NBC have all been mentioned as possible replacements.

"We are still contemplating a lot of people inside and outside the organization," Moonves said to The Wall Street Journal.

Rather's mistake in presenting a story containing factual errors will serve as a litmus test for many aspiring journalists and will no doubt make them aware of the condemnation that may come if a reporter reports false

information.

While it has been recognized that Rather made a mistake, some do not feel that his coverage of the story makes him any less of a reporter.

"He made a mistake, but I think every journalist will make a mistake in his or her career," said Angela Hailstorks, a junior broadcast journalism major. "I still think he is a great reporter."

Rather has been a reporter with CBS News for more than 40 years and during his time at the network, has contributed to many stories dating back to the Civil Rights Movement. He has also reported on the major wars of the last 30 years, including Vietnam and the US-led invasion of Afghanistan. Rather was also the last American journalist to interview Saddam Hussein while he was still the leader of Iraq. In addition, Rather has covered many national tragedies, many of which will forever be etched into the minds of all Americans. They include the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, as well as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Rather has received numerous awards for his journalism including numerous Emmys and a Peabody Award.

Some feel that his resignation is unfortunate because Americans will be losing a talented and well-respected anchor.

"I think we are going to lose an experienced reporter with Rather leaving," said Aspen Steib, a junior broadcast journalism major. "However, this gives room for someone new and refreshing to come in and take his place. We need a new outlook in our media."

Although some are saddened by Rather's departure, others feel that his time has come.

"I think it's a good time for him to retire," Hailstorks said. "He has covered so much, and I think it's good to go on top. He is permanently a part of history."

www.cbsnews.com

Dan Rather announced his retirement, ending a decades long career in news for the CBS network. Despite the controversy from Rather's erroneous story on President Bush, CBS said Rather's retirement came as a result of a mutual agreement.



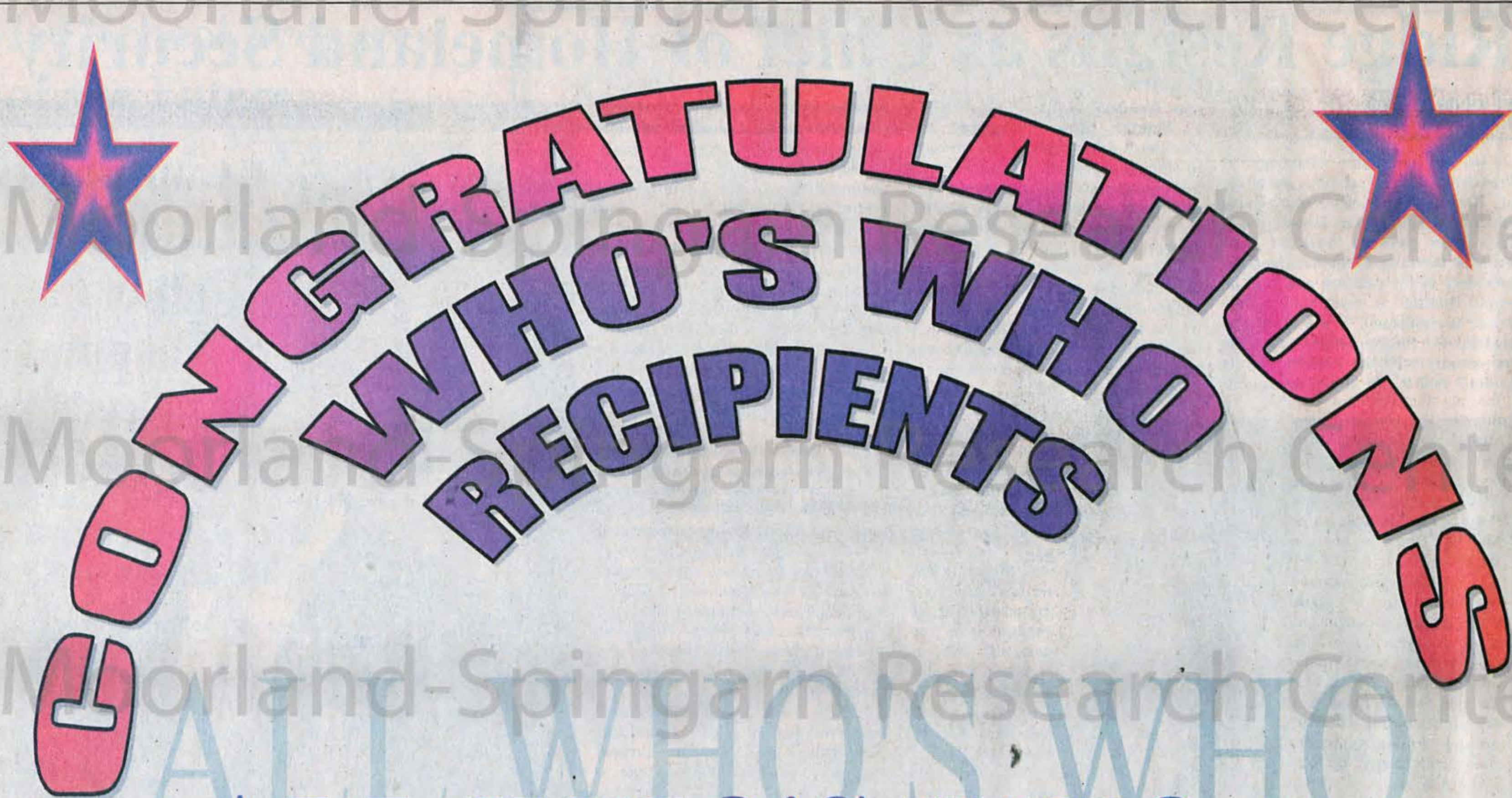
www.knews.com



Highlights of Dan Rather's Career

- 1963- Became the first journalist to report that President Kennedy had died of wounds he suffered after being shot by an assassin
- 1964- Becomes CBS White House Correspondent
- 1965-66- Covers the Vietnam War
- 1968- Is slugged by a police officer while trying to interview a delegate at the Democratic Convention who was being dragged off the floor
- 1973- Wins the first of 23 Emmys for coverage of the Watergate Scandal
- 1974- Becomes anchor for CBS reports
- 1975- Becomes co-anchor for "60 Minutes"
- 1981- Replaces Walter Cronkite as anchor and managing editor of the CBS Evening News
- 1987- Walks off the set of a CBS newscast, causing the network to go dark for several minutes, because he was annoyed that a tennis match had preempted the start of his broadcast
- 1988- Has an on air clash with then Vice President George H.W. Bush over the Iran-Contra Scandal; Becomes an anchor and reporter on CBS newsmagazine 48 Hours
- 1990- Interviews Saddam Hussein before the start of the Gulf War
- 2003- Interviews Saddam Hussein again before the start of the US-led invasion to topple his regime
- 2004- Reports a story using forged documents that allege President Bush received preferential treatment when he was admitted into the Texas Air National Guard

Source: USA TODAY RESEARCH



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LGI Group: The New Face in Entertainment

BY LAUREN JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

The weekend is here, classes are done, and the question is, what party should you go to? In making this decision, few people pay attention to who is throwing the party. Recently, the majority of the most popular parties around Washington D.C., have all had the name The LGI Group written on the flyer.

The LGI Group is owned by Howard student, Javier "Dj Goldenboy" Vergara a 21-year-old, junior legal communications major and his childhood friend TaQuan Sonny Frasier. The company was started in late 2002, promoting parties throughout many different college campuses in upstate New York.

The company got its start after Vergara learned the club business, through DJing for other organizations and promoters. Vergara and Frasier then decided to throw their own parties and make their parties better than the ones they attended and worked.

After dominating the upstate New York college market including Syracuse University, Rochester



Maya Gilliam - Senior Photo Editor

The LGI Group began promoting parties in upstate New York; now they throws various parties throughout the DC area, most in which are filled to capacity with party-goers.

Institute of Technology, SUNY Binghamton and SUNY Albany, they decided to tackle a bigger market and move their talent to Washington, D.C.

After the relocation to the DC metropolitan area, they began their first weekly parties entitled "Hypnotiq Thursdays" in January 2003,

at the Daedalus Nightclub.

The party was sponsored by Hypnotiq, and entertained local college students throughout the entire 2003 spring semester. Since then, the promotion group threw parties on Friday nights at Club Up/

Heaven for the 2003-2004 school year. As the fall 2004

semester began, Vergara and Frasier wanted to take their company to another level and throw even better parties for their patrons.

They changed their company name from LGI Entertainment to The LGI Group, and hired a new president, DeVughn Ward, a 19-

year-old sophomore telecommunications management major and George Washington University senior, Jan Haldipur, as vice president. Spurring from this change, The LGI Group changed its direction and decided that they wanted to provide a better product.

The LGI Group obtained a new and luxurious venue, Republic Gardens, and started doing Thursday Nights at the new location. Republic Gardens, one of the most high class venues in the DC area, which was previously not available to the 18 and up market, has been successful on a consistent basis.

During Howard Homecoming, The LGI Group threw The Aftermath at the Basement Night Club and Krush at Platinum Nightclub. Both events were at capacity. Krush had over 2,500 patrons, and featured a surprise performance by BME Recording artist Lil' Scrappy. Two weeks later, they held the East vs. West at Republic Gardens, with over 1,000 people in attendance. Two days after, 700 plus people packed

See LGI, L&S B2

Consumers Look to eBay For Shopping Needs

BY MALERIE MATLOCK
Contributing Writer

The relentless crowds and failure to keep the shelves stocked is enough to stress anyone out before holiday shopping begins. Popular gifts can cost a fortune and many times exceed the college student's budget. To cut down on unnecessary stress and save money, many consumers are choosing eBay to conduct their holiday shopping.

If you want it, eBay has it. The mega-trading tool that spans the world has almost everything you might need for the holidays. The variety includes collectibles, used cars, clothing, books, CDs, electronics, art, make-up, perfume, cologne, jewelry, shoes, handbags and much more. Not only does eBay have access to those hard-to-find items but pricing is also generally lower online than retail value in stores.

Electronics are always high on holiday lists. This season you can find digital cameras, Apple iPod minis, Sony Playstation 2 and much more on eBay for a fraction of their retail cost. On eBay, Apple iPod mini prices range from \$62 to \$222, which is cheaper than the \$249 retail value at www.apple.com. The hard to find Sony Playstation 2, which is officially sold out at Walmart, Target, Toys 'R' Us and Best Buy is available on eBay. The retail value of the popular two-in-one, video game and DVD player combination is approximately \$205, but on eBay bidders can have a new in box Playstation 2 for \$195.

"I like shopping on eBay because it offers cheaper prices, the availability is greater than in stores, and I can get hard-to-find items delivered right to my door without having to go out and look in numerous stores," said Tim Slayton, a senior marketing major.

Although most trendy clothing, shoes and accessories are not hard-to-find in stores, they can be purchased for less on eBay. However, bidders should pay attention to the tags in the clothing to reduce fraud. Popular designer handbags like Coach, Dooney and Bourke, Gucci, Prada, Fendi and Louis Vuitton are all available for as little as \$75.

Jovan Mitchell, a junior biology/pre-med major, is no stranger to eBay. "I bought my sister a Baby Phat jacket from eBay for a fraction of the cost," Mitchell said. "I spent no more than \$70 for the jacket and received speedy and excellent service."

Hard-to-find sneakers are no headache for eBay shoppers. There are over 171,507 pairs of shoes to choose from, including a variety of Nike Air Force Ones, Timberland boots, Nike Air Jordans, Kenneth Cole, Salvatore Ferragamo, Manolo Blahniks and Jimmy Choo for bidders to choose from.

Tia Williams, a senior biology/pre-med major said, "This holiday season I will definitely be using eBay to purchase gifts for my family...I don't like to be in crowded [shopping malls] so eBay is the most efficient way to get the job done."

HU Grads Release New Album

BY NICOLE REED
Contributing Writer

Now releasing a CD on which three of the four executive producers are graduates of Howard University, illpoets.com has grown from an idea between friends to a full-fledged collective of local area poets, songwriters, spoken word artists and musicians who aim to spread their craft to the public through not only a website, but now also through the release of the LP entitled All Seasons.

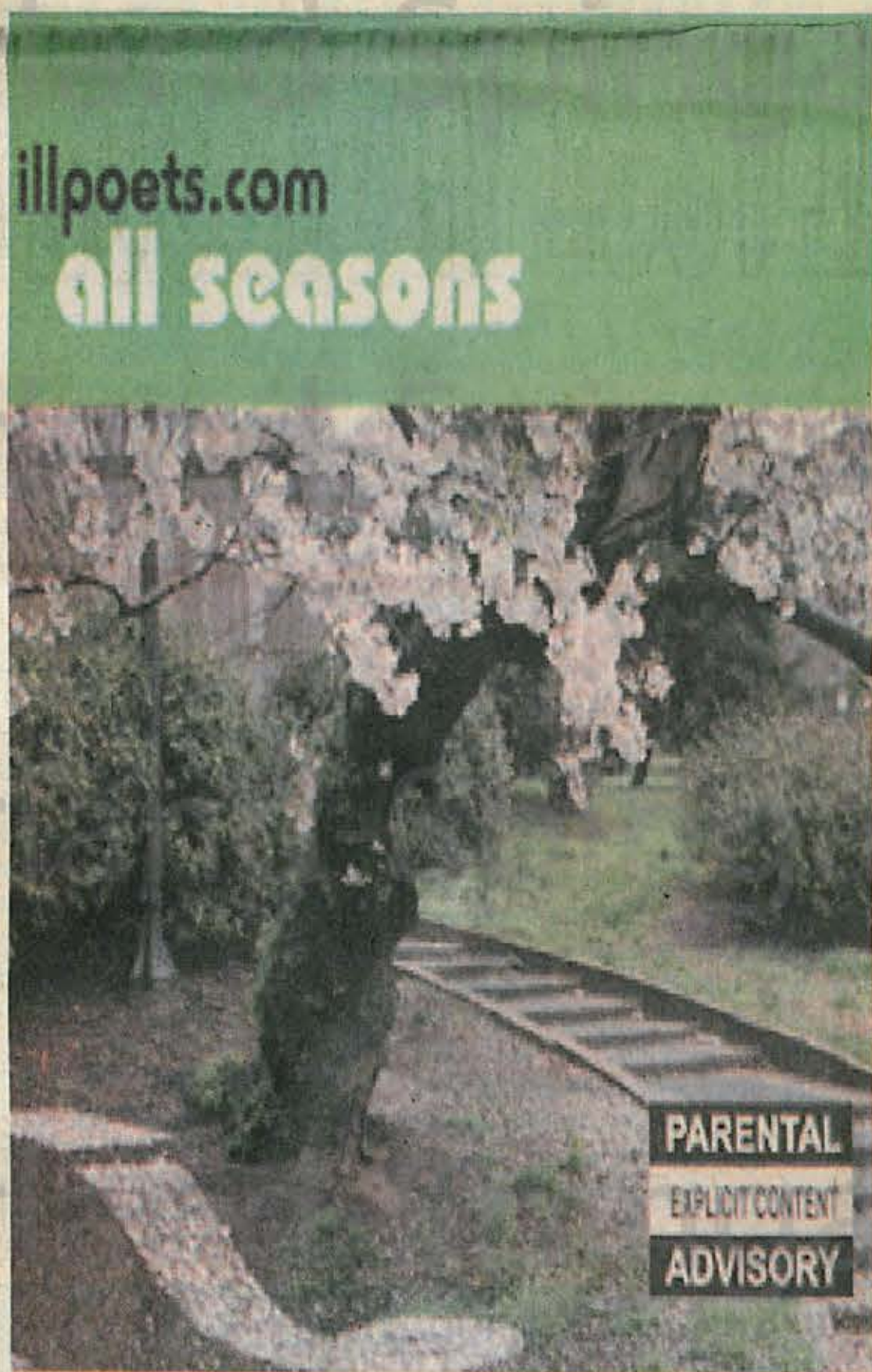
"The artists featured on the LP and the website love the spoken word art form and love to share," said Rasheem Rooke, director of Special Student Services, who is also one of the executive producers and an artist on All Seasons.

"We're doing for poetry what Wu Tang did for hip-hop," said H.J. Lee Bennett, III, CEO and co-founder of illpoets.com. "We have many individuals doing their own thing, but they also come together as a collective group," said Bennett, who has a deep love and appreciation for poetry.

illpoets.com began as an idea during a conversation between Bennett and a friend of his Dionicio Neblett, when Neblett expressed his desire to start the site. A few days later the two agreed to begin the project that Bennett says took him on "a journey of personal and creative change/growth that I would never have imagined."

Bennett, who was already doing poetry himself, began by approaching poets whom he admired and respected about the idea for the website. They were artists who frequented the local open mic circuit and whose work he was familiar with.

The site, which was first launched in January of 2001 featuring six poets has gone through three stages of revamping and growth to include more than 15 artists. It is now a website profiling local songwriters, spoken word artists, musicians and poets who want to help others gain appreciation for the spoken word art form. illpoets.com also con-



www.illpoets.com

tains links, reviews, and a store in which solo projects of the artists can be purchased, among other things.

Currently, illpoets.com is moving beyond the website to offer its audience All Seasons, an LP containing pieces and performances by many of the artists featured on the website. The project started in 2002 and will serve as a compliment to the live performances of illpoets.com.

"I want to have others identify with me and what I'm feeling when I speak," said Rooke, who became involved with illpoets.com about five years ago. "I try to use my skills to show people other sides of me."

"I want to let people see that there is serious talent in D.C.,"

said Andre Williams, an executive producer on the LP, whose hip-hop artists and experience with the industry attracted Barrett's attention. "It is rare that you get to hear all of the unique styles out there because you hear so much of the same stuff and I want people to see the talent in D.C. that is non-stereotypical."

illpoets.com will be celebrating the release of All Seasons by hosting a listening party/album release party/open mic, on Dec. 7 in the Gallery Lounge of Blackburn Center at 7 p.m. "This is sort of homecoming for many of us who did the poetry scene at Howard before there was one," Bennett said. "Now we're coming back with a product." For more information, visit illpoets.com.

Text Messaging: Can You Read Me Now... Good!

BY LAUREN JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Imagine that you are in class and suddenly you remember something important that you must tell your friend immediately; but you do not want to disrupt the class by calling them. What do you do? Send a text message!

Text messaging is one of the latest technological forms of communication used among college students. It is a union of the cell phone and the pager. It's also fast, convenient and discreet.

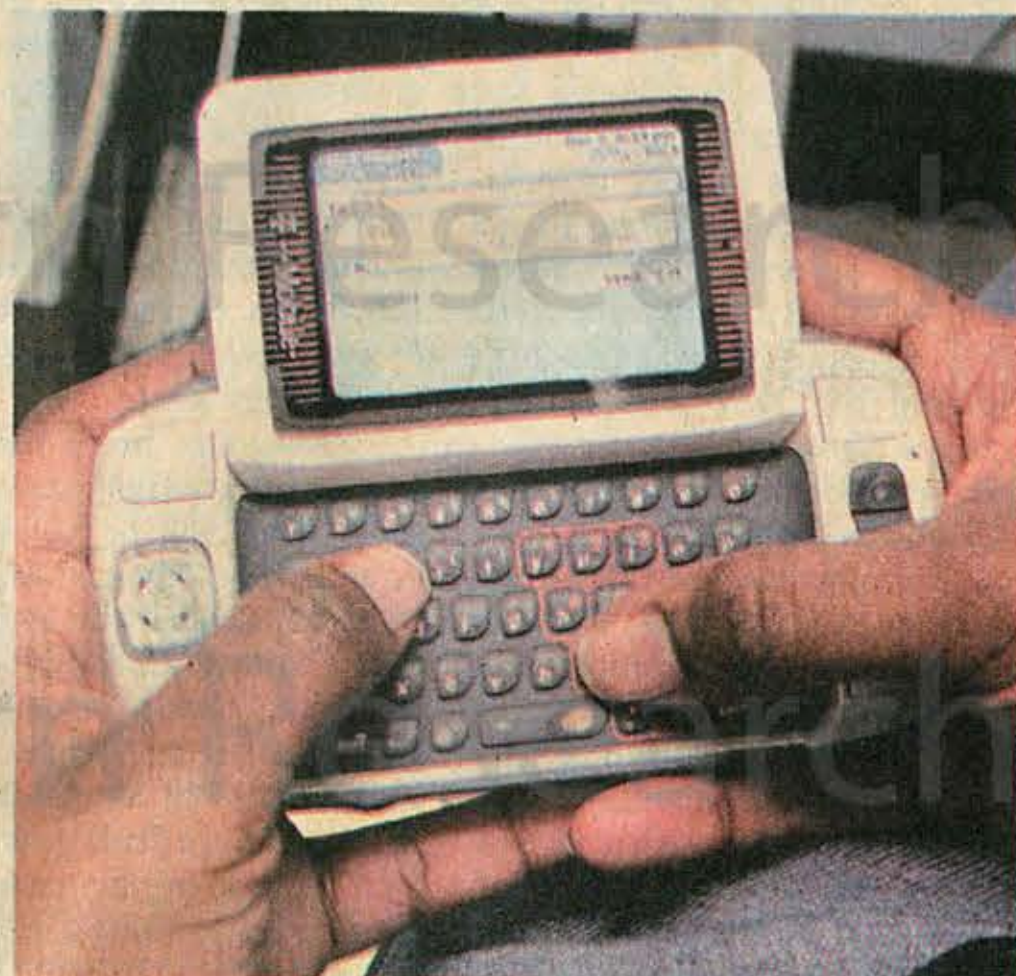
According to Baylor University's official website, Dr. Corey Carbonara, the director of the Digital Communication Technologies Project at the university said, "text messaging, born in Europe and Asia, has exploded on the scene in the U.S. in just the past couple of years and it's changing the way we communicate. A recent survey found 20 percent of American cell subscribers, over 27 mil-

lion people, use text messaging. That's up from 12 percent a year before."

Students at Howard University agree. "I think it is definitely a new form of communication," said sophomore print journalism major Shanae Harris. "It's definitely an alternative for phone conversation to me because I can use it in times where I cannot talk or make noise like class or quiet places." Students use text messaging almost anywhere—the bus, the library, on the go and even in class.

Although Harris believes text messaging can replace a phone conversation, senior psychology major Phillip Duffy feels differently. "Text messaging is a viable form of communication," Duffy said. "But I don't think it's an alternative to phone conversations. Most people use text messaging during their 'anytime' period." Due to small screen space on a cell phone, text messages are usually "short and sweet," according

See TEXT, News B7



Maya Gilliam-Senior Photo Editor

The Reasons For SEX

BY ALNISE OVERTON
Contributing Writer

Sex! It is a part of human nature, also known as "the birds and the bees," and the reason for the human race. It is referenced in your favorite songs, and sometimes used for advertising purposes. It's a subject often times taken in a causal sense. Some may be familiar with the phrase, "friends with benefits," or some sort of understanding where there are "no strings attached." People engage in causal sex for a number of different reasons.

Ayana Hypolite, a freshman Biology major, said, "I personally don't believe in it, you should only be involved with someone you've been with for a while, it should be something special."

According to research, sex can become a habit and an addiction. Those who engage in causal sex are looking to fulfill a void and women are more likely than men to develop emotional attachments. They often use causal sex as a substitute for a relationship they may not be able to have. Other studies show they are participants as a reflection of insecurities they possess such as low self-esteem.

Men see causal sex as an avenue to avoid commitment and if they regularly participate in causal sexual relationships, they tend to have multiple partners to satisfy what another

er partner may lack. Author of "Out of the Shadows," Patrick J. Carnes explains that causal sex advocates sexual promiscuity because it allows people to throw away their responsibility. He even states "safe sex" is an oxymoron in itself because he feels if having sex is a freedom of choice, how is it that people have to make sure it is "safe?"

People will still have boundaries so the freedom continues to be limited. With over 50 percent of all marriages in America ending in divorce, causal sex may not sound so bad.

Senior Biology major, Scott A. Bibbins disagrees, and says, "It's not cool because feelings get involved and men take advantage of women."

Some may argue that in American society a male can have multiple sex partners and still be respected among his peers but women with multiple sex partners are labeled negatively, reflecting promiscuity. Where did this double standard come from? Before the 19th century women in American society were considered an asset to compliment a man and bare children.

It wasn't until the 20th century that women were viewed differently. "Free love and open marriage" ideas became more popular in the 1930's while there was a decline in capitalism. At this point women were now

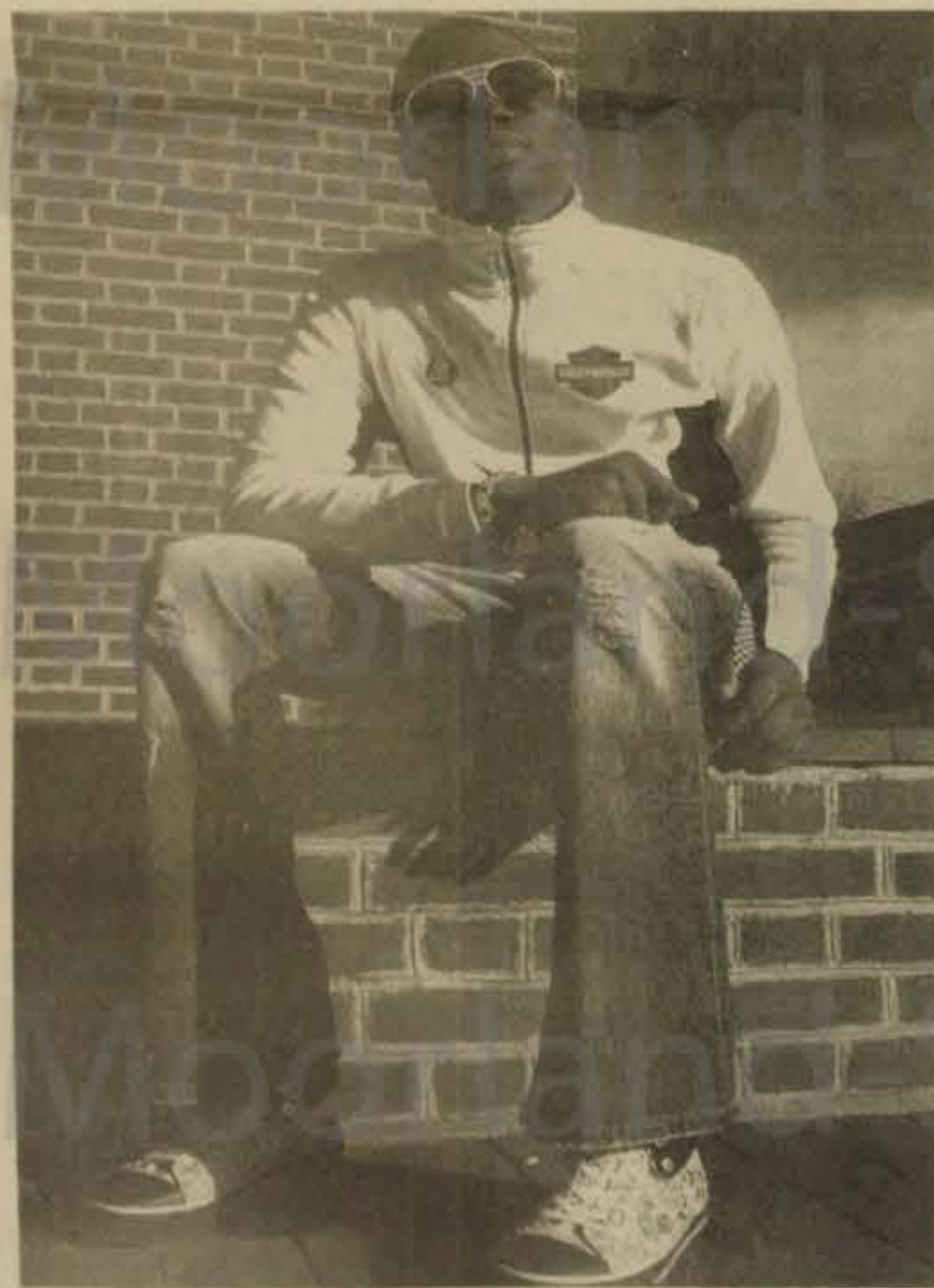
allowed to enjoy pleasure from sex just as men did, and were not just limited to the social norm of having children. Since the sexual revolution of the 1960's, the exploration of human sexuality has become very expressive in common every day practices. There are mixed feelings about the media's role on sexual influence.

The National Eating Disorders Association reported that one out of four TV commercials send some kind of "attractiveness message," telling viewers what is and is not attractive. Under the Family Planning Perspective with insight from Jane D. Brown, and Sarah N. Keller, they pose the question of whether the mass media can be healthy sex educators. They emphasize that the media presents a thin line between "depicted sexual relations and real life."

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of expression. It is not a crime for unmarried people to have sex, neither it is a crime for someone to have multiple sexual partners. People are free to express themselves and do as they wish as long as it does not interfere with the law. People who engage in causal sex have that right. But, the First Amendment does not include a guideline to the emotional and physical aspects of this freedom.

FASHION *idol* OF THE WEEK

Todd Price



Tia Goodman - Staff Photographer

For some people style is just a word, for others it means much more. Freshman music education major Todd Price knows the importance of style as it relates to a person's character.

"I think most people we see as well dressed, simply dress for who they are. Style expresses who you are," Price said with enthusiasm.

Price admits that his sense of style is indescribable. "I do a little bit of everything, so my style is hard to explain," Price said. "I don't just dress one way."

While many students tend to look to celebrities for fashion inspiration, Price's own "fashion idol" happens to be a Howard student. "Nicholas Gant is so comfortable in anything he wears, that is why he is my fashion inspiration. He knows the key to style."

For his own style, Price says that he cannot live without, these three items: suspenders, a cool pair of shades and boots. "I love boots a lot," he adds. Among his favorite places to shop include H&M, Hot Topic and Bloomingdale's.

Price leaves students with a bit of advice when it comes to fashion. "Your style is a reflection of who you are as a person. And it's very obvious if what you have on is not part of your character....and that is whack!"

Compiled by Erica Williams

UNTITLED

Maybe God wants us to meet a few wrong people before meeting the right one so that when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.

When the door of happiness closes, another opens, but often times we look so long at the closed door that we don't see the one that has been opened for us.

The best kind of friend is the kind that you can sit on a porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

It's true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it's also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives.

Giving someone all your love is never an assurance that they'll love you back! Don't expect love in return; just wait for it to grow in their hearts but if it doesn't, be content it grew in yours.

It takes only a minute to get a crush on someone, an hour to like someone, and a day to love someone, but it takes a lifetime to forget someone.

Don't go for looks; they can deceive. Don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

There are moments in life when you miss someone so much that you just want to pick them from your dreams and hug them for real!

Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; be what you want to be, because life is short and now is when you have the chance to do all the things you want to do.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, enough hope to make you happy.

Always put yourself in others' shoes. If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the other person too.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Happiness lies for those who cry, those who hurt, those who have searched, and those who have tried, for only they can appreciate the importance of people who have touched their lives.

Love begins with a smile, grows with a kiss, and ends with a tear.

The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past, you can't go on well in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so that when you die, you're the one who is smiling and everyone else is crying.

Author Unknown

Weight Watchers on the Prowl for Healthy Sandwiches

BY AUSTIN WALTON
Contributing Writer

It may look delicious to eat, but will you look good after eating it?

The Center for Science in Public Interest, a non-profit consumer nutrition organization conducted a study where they analyzed 12 sandwiches for fat, fat saturation, and sodium. The study was mostly conducted on American foods, but the Center for Science in Public Interest also did a study that showed fat in Italian, Mexican and Chinese foods.

The projected daily limits for fat, saturated fat and sodium recommended by the Food and Drug Administration for people above the age of 18 are 65 grams of total fat, 20 grams of saturated fat and 2,400 grams of sodium. Many city restaurants have lunch portion meals with a sodium and fat intake that should be eaten for dinner. There are

some restaurants that offer food that you expect to be low fat, but the food is in fact more fattening than some meat sandwiches.

According to nutritionist for the Center for Science in Public Interest, Jane Hurley, you must watch what restaurants are serving you to eat. She analyzed 170 sandwiches from Washington, New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

"People tend to think of a sandwich as just a bite to eat, but many shops are giving you a dinner's worth of fat and calories. Tuna itself is fat free, but in sandwiches, it's drowning in one-third cup of mayonnaise. That's the equivalent of three McDonald's Quarter Pounders, fat-wise," Hurley said.

Roxanne Prather, a psychology major from Silver Spring, Md. said, "I remember I went with my family to Olive Garden over the Thanksgiving break, and I ordered lasagna for my meal. When [the waiter] brought the lasagna, I was just curious to

find out how much fat was in the lasagna. He told me 45 grams of fat. I told him to take it back immediately."

An egg salad, for instance, has 31 grams of fat, 10 grams saturated fat and 1,110 milligrams of sodium, and is much more fattening than a roast beef sandwich with mustard which only has 12 grams fat, 4 grams of saturated fat and 1,136 milligrams of sodium. A tuna salad has 43 grams of fat, 8 grams of saturated fat and 1,319 milligrams of sodium, while a corned beef sandwich with mustard only has 20 grams of fat, 8 grams of saturated fat and 1,924 milligrams of sodium.

There are ways to cut down the fat on some of the sandwiches you enjoy. A vegetarian sandwich with cucumbers, sprouts, avocado, cheese and salad dressing is 40 grams of fat, 14 grams of saturated fat and 1,276 milligrams of sodium can easily be reduced in fat if you remove the salad dressing portion.



Alvado Alexander - Staff Photographer

The Center for Science in Public Interest urges consumers to watch what they are being served at restaurants that claim to have "low-fat" sandwiches.

New York to the District: LGI Rocks the Party

LGI, from L&S B1

Daedalus nightclub for Encore. Their most recent party, called Absolutely Knot drew in a crowd of over 400 people, which was co-sponsored in part by Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

"I have attended some of The LGI Group's events, and at first I was skeptical about them, I thought they just worked for somebody and hung out on Howard's campus all day," said Nicole Frye, an interior design major from Silver Spring, "but as I started to go out more and more, I noticed that all of the parties I was attending were their events. It surprised me to find out they were college students, and all their parties have been getting better and better."

The LGI Group has thrown

numerous parties and do not plan to stop any time in the near future. Their resume is plush and have gained credibility and respect by working in collaboration with a variety of organizations such as: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., HU Michigan Club, Chicago People's Union, the New Jersey Club, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., California Club, etc.

So how has The LGI Group become so successful? "Through hard work, organization and good relationships with people we have been blessed to be successful," Vergara stated. "We are in the same age group as our customers, and that helps us relate more to the people. I have DJed for many other promoters and watched other promot-

ers make mistakes, and we learn from those, and try not to make the same ones. Our street team is very diligent, and the organizations we work with help out a lot. Most importantly, it's the customers that come out to our events. Without them there is no LGI Group, so we try our best to be customer friendly and listen to what they want."

Need more proof that The LGI Group is not going anywhere soon? They will be holding an event Friday, Dec. 3, at Republic Gardens to end the semester with a bang. Plans for the future of The LGI Group include: MLK Weekend at Fur Night Club, Spring Break in Miami and the return of Allure Fridays, at a new even more luxurious venue. Interested in becoming a promoter log on to their website: www.LGI-ent.com.

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DEC. 1 - 3,

WED. - FRI.,

9:30 - 5:00

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MON. - FRI.,

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DEC. 13 - 14,

MON. - TUES.,

9:30 - 5:00

DEC. 15,

WED.,

9:30 - NOON

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Bison Basketball Heads Into First MEAC Game



Louis Ford (10) scored a game-high 14 points in Monday's loss to Portland State.

BY GANEKA GRAY
Contributing Writer

With the many changes taking place, from the crisper weather to the new semester, there is also the turning in the seasonal sports. The new basketball season has begun and Bison Head Coach Frankie Allen is getting Howard's men's team ready for MEAC competition.

Allen, who is in his fifth year coaching at Howard, knows his players very well, and while he believes in their athletic ability, he also believes that they can become better players. "The team is working very hard, we need to improve in rebounding but our players give a good effort. If we just continue to play hard and make better decisions on the floor, it will fine tune our defense," he remarked this past week.

The team has already begun playing the 2004-2005 season, but the first MEAC game will take place on Monday, Dec. 6 against the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). According to Allen,

this is a very important game for his team and they are preparing in a few ways. "The first game against UMES is a critical game. They have new coaches so it will be a new system. We can't go by what we saw in the past. We're working on our transition game, doing certain drills that will prepare us offensively and defensively."

Louis Ford Jr., a junior point-guard from Cambridge, Mass. led the conference last year in assists and steals. He is hopeful about the new season for the Bison. "We just need to come together. We lost a lot last year so we're trying to bond and get on the same page and have a better year than last season. We're trying to turn the program around," he assured.

James "Q" McBryde, a junior forward from Cleveland, Ohio transferred to Howard from a junior college in upstate New York and he also feels that the Bison have a good chance this year. "I'm very confident, we're not too worried because we know we are going to come out and play how we're

supposed to. We just need to play aggressively. The foundation of our team is our tenacious defense, so if that's good it will lead to easy scoring."

There are 11 teams in the MEAC and in the end the top five programs will advance automatically to the quarterfinals, after that comes the semifinals and then the finals. Coach Allen already has his eye on teams that need to be watched during the season. He also has some very acute expectations for the season. "If we get good chemistry, I think we could finish in the top half of the conference and earn a first round bye into the quarterfinals. The teams we really want to play well against are Hampton and South Carolina State. They've got size, experience and they are returning most of their starters, but there are other potentially good teams as well in the MEAC."

As for the team and the season, Ford is confident that he and teammates will come out on top in the conference. "I feel good. We work hard in practice everyday and everybody is willing. I'm definitely comfortable with the team. We're going to come together and surprise a lot of people."



Sophomore guard Will Gant (4) will be one of the keys to Howard's success this season.

Student-Athletes Vow to Stay Drug Free and Comply With NCAA

BY ESTHER HOWARD
Contributing Writer

Besides the gym, field or track many athletes are periodically found congregating in the halls of the compliance office. They are filling out paperwork, checking on eligibility or just swinging by to say hello to Adrea Washington, the assistant director of compliance, or Head Director of Compliance A.B. Williamson.

An array of awkwardly positioned student bodies inhabit the floor of the Compliance Office as student-athletes try to create their own surface to write on, sometimes using their legs and arms.

Located on the walls are posters regulated by NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) warning student-athletes of the consequences of engaging in professional, collegiate or high school gambling and the usage of illegal drug substances. These posters strategically contain key phrases such as: "You bet you'll Lose" insisting that student athletes would lose the bet to NCAA if choosing to pursue gambling on athletic games. Other colorful and direct imagery also adorns the office. The "Your Career Could Go Down in Flames" poster shows an African-American male holding \$20 bills in his hand as \$100 dollars and a marijuana joint all burn from his grasp. These images are potent and further stipulate some of the ways an athlete's career could go down in flames with consequences like, suspension for a year or immediate rejection of attendance from the University that the student is attending.

"We are responsible for so much here in Compliance," Williamson said. "We make sure that the students are certified

in the participation terms of NCAA rules as well as the MEAC Conference. We maintain records on eligibility, verification of degree completion, and budgeting of coaches and students. [There is] so much we are responsible for looking after and I must declare that making sure that students are drug free and gaming free is one of our major agendas here at Howard University. We simply don't tolerate it."

In order to make sure that students are fully aware of the Drug Policy here at Howard and with the NCAA and the MEAC, each student is requested to fill out one NCAA Drug testing form and one NCAA gaming form specifying the content on their regulations. Also enclosed in the typical athlete's paperwork is a Howard University drug policy form listing the cooperation needed from students in order to pursue a college career here at Howard.

Williamson relays that there is a purpose to having two different drug testing forms. He said, "The reasoning behind two different drug forms-- one coming from the NCAA and one being from us here at Howard-- is that different testing for different sorts of drugs are completed by both parties. We, here at Howard, test for more commonly known drugs such as marijuana, heroine, and cocaine; whereas the NCAA looks specifically for 'performance drugs' that stimulate or manipulate a player's natural capabilities or talent."

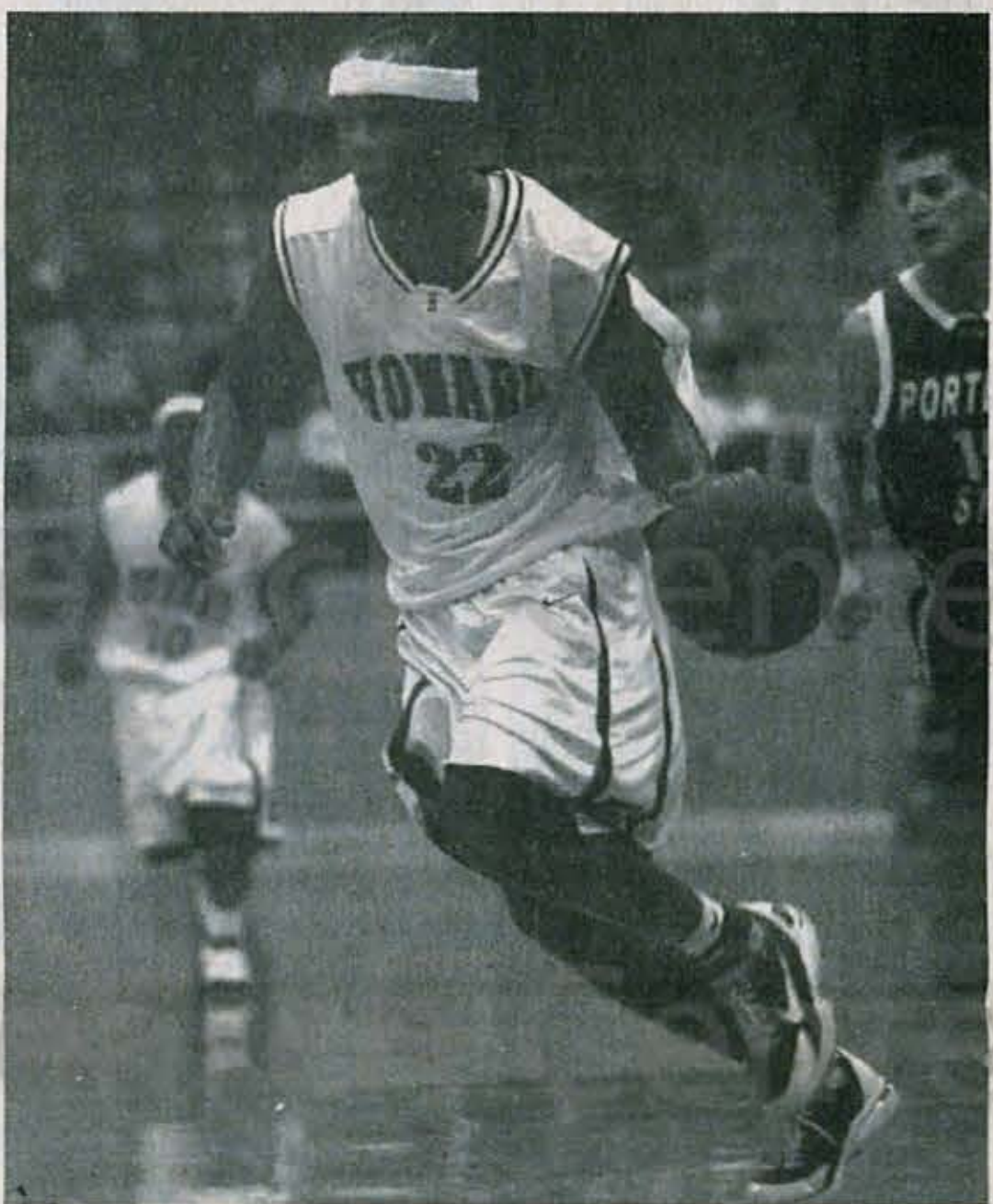
Consequences also are different in each arena for Howard. A first offence requires a period of suspension (depending on the severity of the drug, or gaming). A second offence calls for a suspension and in-depth investigation, and the third offence usually calls for the expulsion of the ath-

lete from the team and/or the University. Additionally, Compliance has the option of conveying all information to the NCAA. Since both the NCAA and Howard handle their own drug affairs, Howard is not obliged to give any information about their drug testing, but must relay all information regarding gaming.

In asking athletes if they feel that the posters, compliance information sheets and pamphlets, combined with team and coaches' meetings really spread the awareness of the importance of being drug and gaming free really work, all agreed that it helped. "Sometimes I joke about the 'You Will Go Down in Flames' poster, but it's real serious. Participating in either gaming or drugs will mess up. It's pointless and there really is no reason to do it," said Howard wide receiver Thyron Lewis.

Andre Williams, a first year track and field athlete, agrees. "You see [the posters] everywhere. They're in Compliance, in Burr Gymnasium, and in all of the coaches' offices, besides the fact that we have meetings on them. I am a first year student here at Howard University and I am fully aware of my responsibilities as an athlete here on this campus."

Not only do students feel prepared for what is expected of them, but staff has also noticed the efforts put forth by Compliance. As Assistant Athletic Director Andre Beasley said, "Compliance has done an excellent job creating a atmosphere in which students have no choice but to be aware of what is anticipated from them. The posters, meetings, and forms are all exceptional measures to ensure that students as well as athletics here at Howard stay afloat."



Howard forward Cliffone Ault (22) will be relied upon heavily if the Bison are to challenge for the MEAC title this season.

Boxley, Jarrell Lead Portland State To Win Over Howard

BY ED HILL
Special To The Hilltop

Seamus Boxley and Antone Jarrell combined to score six of Portland State's last eight points to help the visitors pull out a 58-53 win over Howard University in a non-conference men's game last Monday during the home opener.

The Bison (1-3) took a 53-52 lead when Jason Trotter made one of two free throws with 1:06 on the clock. Then the Vikings took the lead for good on two free throws by Boxley with 51 seconds on the game clock. Howard missed on its next possession and was forced to foul Jarrell, who made one of two free throws to extend the lead to 55-53. Boxley hit one of two free throws and Jarrell put the game away by knocking down two more to close out the scoring. Jarrell came off the Vikings bench to score 14 points and grab seven rebounds.

Portland State utilized its decided height advantage to open up its biggest lead at 36-27 during the first four minutes of the second half. Boxley, who led all scorers with 22 points while adding 16 rebounds, did most of the damage and he took turns posting up and operating against the Bison front line players.

"We had to make some adjustments due to their pressure out front," said Portland State Coach Heath Schroyer.

"They were so quick out front and applied so much pressure that we made a conscious effort to get the ball inside."

The strategy proved to be effective as the Vikings (2-2) shot 25 more free throws than Howard and held a 48-31 advantage on the boards. The Bison managed to stay close due to the plays from forward Cliffone Ault (13 points) and Louis Ford (14 points, 5 steals), who combined for 27 of the Bison's 31 second-half points. It was Ford, the 5-foot-6-inch junior point guard, who personally helped Howard stage the comeback that gave the Bison its only lead of the second half.

"We changed up and went to a match-up half-court zone in the second half," Howard Coach Frankie Allen said. "It helped us on the boards and it also changed the tempo. We were able to get some turnovers and convert them into baskets."

In the end, the Bison, who lost 17 games by seven points or less last season, were left wondering what it takes to get over the hump.

GAME NOTES: The Bison will try to get their second win when they host Longwood College on Saturday at 2 p.m. in Burr Gymnasium. Howard came into the game converting over 72 percent from the free throw line, but made just six of 12 (50 percent). However, the Bison did record 11 steals and force 22 turnovers.



According to the NCAA, marijuana is the most commonly used drug by student athletes. Cannabis, however, is not a performance-enhancing drug but still carries very severe punishment.

MEAC Rivalries Abound

BY KONAHE JERNIGAN
Hilltop Staff Writer

Only a few games into the collegiate basketball season and teams across the nation are gearing up for conference play. For Howard, the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference poses an interesting task, as Coach Frankie Allen and the Bison Men are quietly confident that their squad can pose a realistic threat. Some teams have lost key players and must fight to work new additions into the program, as other teams will have to overcome difficulties revolving around getting past players to step up and fill in the gaps. The MEAC title is up for grabs and will fall into the hands of the hoop squad who can overcome their losses and bank on their gains. Here's a look at Howard's competition in the MEAC.

Bethune-Cookman College (B-CC) is hoping to turn last year's disappointing season around as the team finished 8-21 overall and 7-11 in the conference. Head Coach Clifford Reed Jr. and the Wildcats have their work cut out for them. The team will be short two key starters, including guard Maurice Riddick who averaged 18.2 points per game last year and Richard Toussaint who put up just over 15 points per game in 2003. Returning for the Wildcats are center Pape Ba, forward Michael Williams and guard O'Neal Carter. Ba averaged a solid 10.7 points per game last year while Carter led the Wildcats with 87 assists. These players will have to step up their games and exhibit strong leadership to fill the Wildcat's void. The first conference game for the Wildcats will be Dec. 5 against Hampton University.

Coppin State University (CSU) is led by Ronald "Fang" Mitchell, who has won coach of the year six times. The Eagles are one of the top contending teams in the MEAC, finishing last season with a 14-4 record. However, CSU struggled in non-conference games ending with an overall record of 18-14. The team has lost one of their major contributors, MEAC first team honoree Jimmy Boykin. However, the team's second leading scorer Kelvin Green is back and will be assisted by guard Nicholas King. Both are among MEAC score leaders and averaged 12 and 10 points per game respectively in 2003. The Wildcats have all the right ingredients for a strong season. The Eagles' first MEAC contender is North Carolina A&T on Dec. 4.

Florida A&M University (FAMU) finished last season 15-17 overall and 10-8 in the conference, but managed to win last year's MEAC championship. Mike Gillespie Sr. heads the team in his fourth year with the Rattlers. The team lost key guards Terrance Woods who averaged over 20 points per game and Damarcus Williams. Key returnees for the Rattlers are forward Michael Ayodele and guard Tony Tate who put up just under 8 points a game in 2003. Forwards Michael Harper and Johnathon Kelly are also expected to improve on their numbers from last year and fill the void left by the Rattlers' big losses. New additions to FAMU's team include center Glenn Eliot, who could prove to be a monster with his 6'9 height and forward Darius Glover. In order for FAMU to repeat, they need players to step up offensively in order to fill the gap Williams and Woods made with their departure. The Rattlers conference opener is against Norfolk State on Dec. 4.

Hampton University (HU) finished last season with an overall record of 13-17 and 11-7 in the MEAC. Head Coach Bobby Collins Leads the Pirates



All Pro Photography

Mike Ayodele is expected to make a bigger impact for a solid FAMU team this year.

who were able to keep numerous key players from last year's roster, including the indomitable Devin Green, Jeff Granger and Bruce Brown. Green and Granger could possibly be the most potent guard duo in the conference and at 6'11, Brown is proving that he is the stabilizing factor in the middle. The Pirates need to come alive offensively if they want to be successful this season. They also need to increase execution of their free throw shooting which played a large role in their close games last year. Brown will also need to step up and prove that he can be a leading rebounder in the conference. Hampton's first MEAC opponent is Bethune-Cookman College on Dec. 4.

Morgan State University (MSU) finished 7-21 overall and a mere 6-12 in the conference. Alfred "Butch" Beard leads the Bears as head coach in his third year with MSU. The Bears are returning three starters; guard Sam Brand who managed 12 points per game last year, forward Aaron Andrews and guard Cedrick Barrows. The Bears have also returned four letter winners from last year's roster. MSU is going to have to pull together its talent and find a working rhythm if they want to change last year's appalling record. The first MEAC opponent for the Bears will be South Carolina State on Dec. 4.

Norfolk State University (NSU) will have a trying season. The team lost two key guards, Derrick Smith and Nicholas Byrd. Of the team's thirteen, more than half are newcomers; six are returnees. Key Returnees are guard Chakowby Hicks who put up stellar numbers in last year's run and forward Ryan Grier. In addition, forward Karandick Ogunride is back and is expected to improve this season. This will be Head Coach Dwight Freeman's third season with the Spartans. He will have to quickly mesh the strengths of his new players with the experience of his veterans if the Spartans will be successful this season. There will also be pressure for the Spartans to step up quickly and find which of their new guards will fill the shoes of the departed Smith and Byrd. On Dec. 4 the Spartans will go head to head with the Rattlers of FAMU.

North Carolina A&T State University (NCAT) has started the 2004 collegiate season in the doldrums. With a 0-4 record to begin the season, the team is looking for a spark from leading scorer Sean Booker.

Booker, who is a sophomore, averaged 14 points a game last year and is off to a resounding start with almost 20 points a game thus far in the season. Booker will also be looking for some help from senior Steven Koger. However, Koger's numbers have steadily declined. The addition of guard/forward Demetrius Gouins should also be a factor for the Aggies as this Kentucky freshman has great size and small-man skills with the ball. The team's first MEAC opponent is Coppin State on Dec. 4.

South Carolina State University (SCSU) is off to a strong start after losing their first game. Since then, the Bulldogs are 5-0 and are putting up big totals. Most recently, they crushed Savannah State 80-52 as forward Thurman Zimmerman is continuing his dominant ways. Thus far, he is averaging 17 points every outing and at 6'6, 235 pounds he is one of the more imposing figures in the conference. The Bulldogs are led by Head Coach Ben Betts Jr. who has some huge shoes to fill in his first year at the helm. He is the successor to long-time SC State legend Cy Alexander but learned much during his time as assistant. According to the university's website, then Interim Athletics Director Buddy Pugh said, "He's been a part of the tradition here," when he hired Betts. The Bulldogs start MEAC play against the Bears of Morgan State.

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) is getting off to a bad start. The Hawks lost their season opener on November 14 to Ole Miss, 52-64. Last season UMES finished 8-21 overall, 6-12 in the conference. The team is missing out on last year's major contributors in Tee Trotter who put up a superb 19 points per game and Aaron Wellington. Both were considered as two of the better guards in the MEAC last season. Head Coach Larry Lessett has a lot of gaps to fill on his team. The Hawks returned only one key player this season in center Tim Purham. Purham is going to have to step up and pull down more boards and get active offensively. Returning guard Carl Pruitt is going to have to become a leader and pick up where Trotter and Wellington left off. The pressure is on Coach Lessett to cope with his losses and overturn last year's disheartened season. The Hawks' first MEAC contender will be tomorrow against Delaware State University.

Lady Bison Gear-Up For MEAC

BY COURTNEY EILAND
Hilltop Staff Writer

As the 2004-2005 collegiate basketball season gets underway, The Hilltop takes a look at Howard's competition in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Bethune-Cookman College

Coming off an impressive 14-13 overall record, and a 10-8 record in the MEAC, the Lady Wildcats are determined to avenge a quarterfinal loss to Coppin State University in the MEAC Championship Tournament last season. Led by 2004-2005 MEAC pre-season first team member, junior point guard Kate Clark, the Wildcats believe that this season they will be the team to beat. Clark averaged 13.3 points per game last year while teaming up with senior center LaTonya Reed who averaged 11.4 points per game along with 8.4 rebounds. Clark and Reed are considered to be a fearsome duo in the MEAC, led by head coach Francis Simmons.

Coppin State University

Picked to finish third according to the pre-season polls, the Coppin State University Lady Eagles are coming off of an 18-11 overall record and a 13-5 MEAC record. The Eagles are led by 6-foot-3-inch center Leisel Harry and 5-foot-8-inch guard Sherrie Tucker, who were selected as members of the MEAC pre-season first and second teams, respectively. Harry averaged 11.8 points per game and 10.6 rebounds per game last season, while Tucker led all scorers with 12.1 points per game.

Delaware State University

After coming off of a 21-9 overall record last season and a 14-4 record in the MEAC, the Delaware State University Lady Hornets are expected to finish first in the regular season according to the pre-season polls. Led by senior guards, Mandy Clark and Terrelle Waller, who both made the 2004-2005 MEAC pre-season First Team, the Lady Hornets are considered the team to beat. Clark, who averaged 15.7 points per game, was also selected as the pre-season player of the year. Last season, Clark led her team in four other categories: steals, assists, free throws, and three-point shooting.

Florida A&M University

Selected to finish fourth in the pre-season polls, the Florida A&M University Lady Rattlers are depending on seven seniors to lead them to a MEAC title. Six-foot-two-inch center Elana Greene, who is an avid low post player, made the MEAC pre-sea-



All Pro Photography

Mandy Clark is the inspirational leader of a Delaware side that was 14-4 in the MEAC last year.

son second team and is expected to continue her dominant low post play. The Lady Rattlers are hoping to win a MEAC title after losing a close game to Delaware State University in the semifinal of the MEAC Tournament last season.

Hampton University

The Hampton University Lady Pirates are entering this season as the back-to-back Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Champions. Although they are recognized as the defending champs, according to the MEAC pre-season polls, Hampton is picked to finish second in the conference behind Delaware State University. Led by 2003-2004 MEAC Rookie of the Year, Sharema Dean, who averaged 12.8 points per game last season, the Lady Pirates are looking to defend their title and bring home their fourth MEAC championship trophy in six years.

Morgan State University

Although picked to finish last in the MEAC pre-season polls, Head Coach Angelyne Brown feels that her squad this year has extreme talent. With the return of sophomore Whitney Johnson, who had a breakout freshman season, The Lady Bears are expected to make some strides. Also returning is senior Sharonda Watson, who averaged 8.8 points per game last season for the Lady Bears. Suffering from a pre-season injury is dominant low post player, Jennyffer Vargas, who is considered the Bears' top shot blocker. Coach

Brown is depending on low post player Candace Holmes to fill the shoes of Vargas. Holmes led Morgan last season with 6.9 rebounds per game.

Norfolk State University

The Norfolk State University Spartans are entering this season coming off of an 8-21 overall record and a 6-12 record in the MEAC. Picked to finish eighth in the pre-season polls, the Lady Spartans are depending on senior forward Yomika Corbitt who made the MEAC pre-season second team. Last season, Corbitt averaged 10.9 points, 8.8 rebounds, and 2.6 steals per game. She ranked fifth in the MEAC in three different categories: rebounds, steals, and double-doubles.

North Carolina A&T University

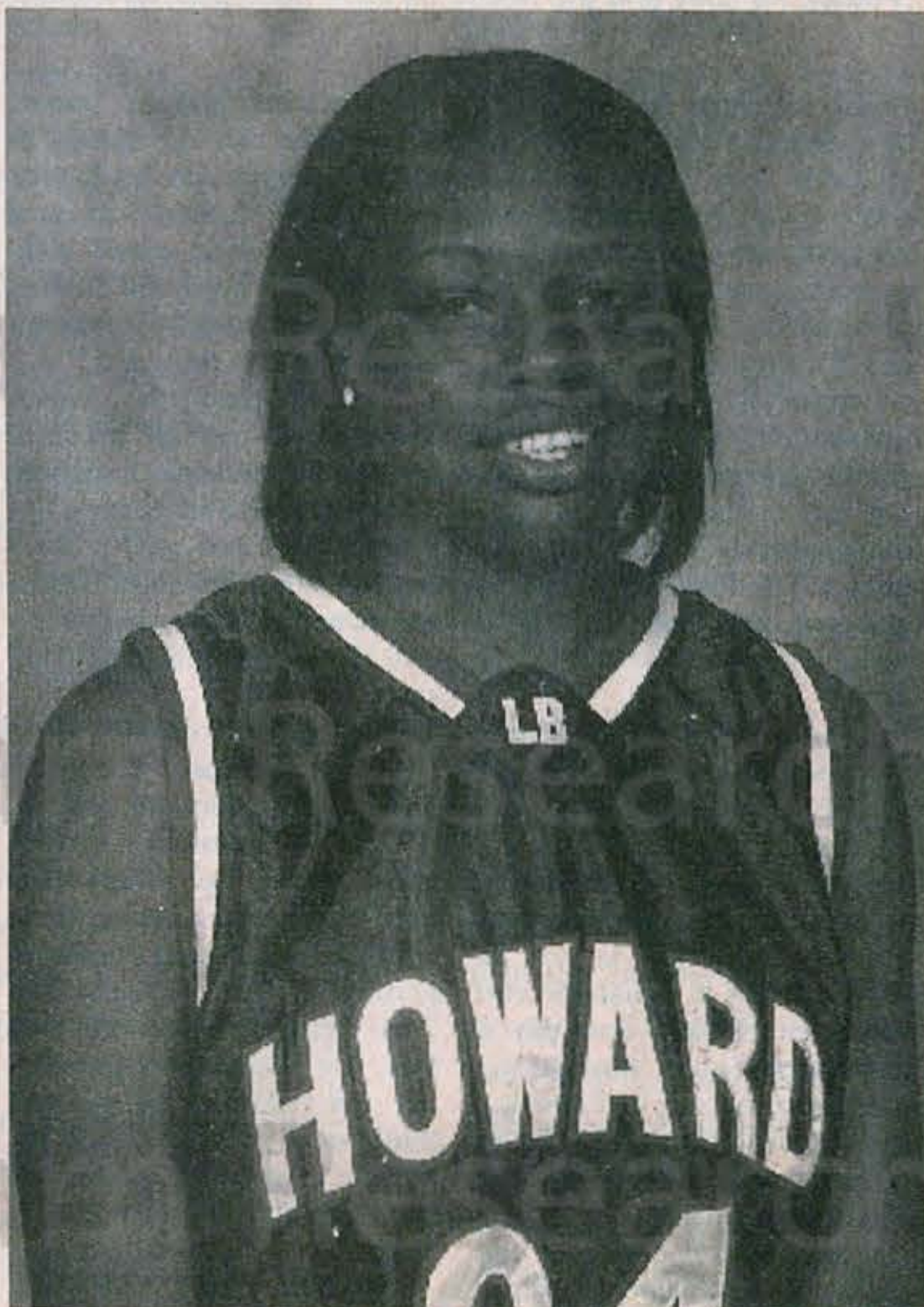
After coming off of a 7-22 overall record and finishing 4-14 in the MEAC, North Carolina A&T women's basketball head coach Saudia Roundtree is hoping for her team to turn around their season record. The Lady Aggies are picked to finish second to last behind the Morgan State University Lady Bears according to the pre-season polls. Camille Akins led the Aggies last season with 15.0 points per game, while Tia Robinson led the team with 8.4 rebounds per game and 2.0 blocks per game.

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Finishing last season with a 12-17 overall record and 6-12 in the MEAC, Head Coach Fred Batchelor is looking to improve the team's record. The Lady Hawks only have three seniors on this year's roster with one name in particular: 5-foot-8-inch guard Octavia Thompson. Thompson ranked third on her team last season with 10.9 points per game, shooting 42 percent from the field. After losing top scorers Tiffany Winkfield and Laconia Hatcher, who averaged 14.6 and 12.8 points respectively, Coach Batchelor is looking for some of his underclassmen to step up.

South Carolina State University

After suffering a first round exit against Norfolk State University in the MEAC Tournament last season, the Lady Bulldogs are looking to make some noise this season. The Lady Bulldogs have now secured a new coach in Tonya Mackey, after former coach Keshia Campbell resigned following a 9-19 overall record last season. With senior forward, Ekena Morency making the MEAC pre-season second team, The Lady Bulldogs are hoping for a turnaround this season. Morency proved to be an avid low post player after averaging 11.1 points and 9.9 rebounds per game last season.



All Pro Photography

Terease Thornton and the Lady Bison face UMES in the team's first MEAC matchup on Monday.

Women Also Fall Victim To Sneaker Craze

BY BREA CHARLES
Contributing Writer

Howard University has been recognized by publications such as Ebony and Seventeen magazines not exclusively for academics, but for a bold, unique and trendy sense of style. Observe the Yard at noon on any given school day and this fact will prove true, as Howard students parade across campus as if it is a runway and they are premiering their finest treads and hottest kicks on the red carpet.

There are few who don't acknowledge that Howard is home to some of the world's most intelligent, strong and beautiful Black women. In addition to all the great qualities women on this campus possess, it is recognized that they tend to have an affinity for shoes. From the most beat down, old, and "busted" retros, to the clean, sheik and new, athletic shoes, which are making a strong comeback with women.

Shoes have character. People can gain a brief glimpse into ones true personality by observing the condition of their shoes, and if allowed, could probably tell a great story.

Converse All-Star Chuck Taylor's, are among the most popular shoes worn by many women on this campus. Many women will accent an outfit with a pair of "Chucks." Many prefer theirs adorned with dirt and scuffmarks giving an old vintage look. This shoe has been popular for many generations and some feel it is here to stay. Many who enjoyed Chucks as a child, still do today. Most still enjoy personalizing their shoes by writing their names, or giving the soles a little design as they did as a child.



The "All-Star" or Chuck Taylor's have been Converse's most recognizable shoe for decades.

Lauren Poledore a junior radio, TV, film major said, "I am a shoe freak, and I don't like keeping my shoes dirty but, I think people who personalize their shoes show their personality and uniqueness."

Unlike Poledore, some women, like Shardy

Lewis, like to keep their Chucks clean. "I have a couple of pairs of Converse and I don't like to alter what the manufacturer intended," said Lewis, a junior physician's assistant major.

Your place of birth can all be unlocked just by the way you may refer to your shoes. For example

if you are from the east coast many refer to athletic shoes as sneakers, and if you are from the west shoes are called tennis shoes. However, you may refer to the shoes you wear, one thing is common: many people own or have owned a pair of Jordan's.

Like Chucks, many people feel Jordan's can, and never will, get old. Rocking the newest pair of Jordan's was a fashion priority for many people growing up. However, as a college student, purchasing a pair of Jordan's is not cost effective. Junior radio, TV, film major Asia Sutherland has a deep love for athletic shoes. She said, "I used to really love Jordan's and I still do, but I like new trendy shoes like Asics, and Retro Adidas. They are really cute and much cheaper than Jordan's."

Extreme blasts from the pasts are a must on this campus. Shoes from the late 80s and early 90s are among the most popular shoes worn today. Most athletic shoes tend to be extremely comfortable. However, many do not wear athletic shoes for the specific sport the shoe was intended. Many people wear track and field shoes and even cleats just for the style. Poledore said, "I wear women's softball cleats not for the sport, but because not many people wear them for the fashion and they are extremely cute."

Women on this campus have the ability to modernize older styles as the shoes of yesteryear are slowly resurrected. Retro Adidas, Nike Dunks, Nike Air Max, Asics, Jordan XIX, and Nike Street Maxcat track and field shoes are the hottest shoes this season you will find in stores and definitely walking around campus.

It's About That Time, Gibbs

BY AUSTIN WALTON
Contributing Writer

Overthrown passes, under thrown passes, behind the receiver passes, thrown to the other team passes, short passes, long passes, bobbled passes and ugly passes.

At least it can be said that Mark Brunell, 34, former starting quarterback for the Washington Redskins, really knew how to keep the opposing team guessing about where he will throw next. There was just one problem: he kept his own receivers guessing as well.

Joe Gibbs, the head coach for the Washington Redskins, started Brunell through the first eight games of the season, and that decision might have cost the Redskins their chance of making it to the postseason this year. Gibbs did not have the season he thought he would when he returned to football after a 13-year absence. The last time Gibbs coached, he was 51 years young and in perfect health. Now, Gibbs has recently turned 64 and is faced with the biggest challenge of his coaching career: how to turn this season around.

Gibbs knows he has a good young quarterback in Patrick Ramsey, 25, who has a promising future in the NFL. He named Ramsey the starting quarterback two games ago after horrendous playing by Brunell. Many pundits believed that Gibbs should have started Ramsey at the beginning of the season. However, nobody was prepared for Brunell's sudden demise as a quality quarterback.

In Brunell's seventh game at the helm, although it did turn out as a win over the Detroit Lions 17-10, Brunell had one of the worst throwing games of any starting quarterback so far this season. Brunell went 6 for 17 attempts throwing a measly 58 yards. Running back Clinton Portis threw the only touchdown pass during the game for the Redskins, when there was fake half back option run, and he tossed it to Laverneus Coles in the end zone.

It was about time for a quarterback change. Gibbs gave the Redskins fans what they wanted: for Brunell to be replaced by Ramsey. Redskins' fans tend to support any decision Gibbs makes, since he was the one who brought 3 super bowl rings to a D.C. area that has not seen anything remotely close to that accomplishment for nearly 13 years.

It was a hard decision for



Patrick Ramsey and the Redskins have been picking themselves up off the turf all year.

Gibbs to bench Brunell, since he resembled the person he probably was 30 years ago. Gibbs is very conservative, very religious, very optimistic about everything, and people love his personality. The same can be said for Brunell.

Many Redskins fans have questioned Gibbs coaching this season. His offense is an appalling last in the league in producing yards and scoring touchdowns. The Redskins record is now 3-8, and their chances to make it to the playoffs is very slim.

There is a rumor that ESPN reporter Chris Mortensen highlighted this week. He reported that Gibbs will retire at the end of the season and take the position of General Manager because his health is not up to par. Gibbs is a diabetic and is known to sleep for only a few hours a night after poring over game footage, and creating game plans. Gibbs denied all rumors that he will retire at the end of the season.

"Brunell is not in the prime of his career anymore, he is 34, old, and was inconsistent at quarterback. We had a young, strong-arm quarterback in Ramsey sitting on the bench

for more than half the season. Why Gibbs did not change to Ramsey sooner, confuses me," said Frank Prather a diehard fan and Redskins season ticket holder. "I hope the rumors are not true though. I want for Gibbs to return next year."

Brunell had the lowest quarterback rating amongst starting quarterbacks in the 32-team league. He has thrown five interceptions and a NFL low 7 touchdowns. Through seven games he has threw a career low and NFL worst 52.4 completion rate.

Brunell spoke to Washington Post columnist Jason La Canfora on Nov. 6, 2004, "The numbers are not good, they're not where they need to be, the passing game needs to be better, so I'm disappointed in that," Brunell said. "I'm disappointed in the fact that the completion percentage and yards are not where I think we'd all hope they'd be. But we've got nine games left and hopefully we can turn it around."

Redskin fans have a good future quarterback with Ramsey. Before his injury last year, Ramsey was one of the leagues top quarterbacks.

Creating a strong tandem with wide receiver Laverneus Coles, by helping Coles to earn his first pro bowl berth. All Ramsey needed was good protection from his offensive line, where last year's Coach Steve Spurrier did not stress as being important in his system. Ramsey was sacked by the opposing teams' defense as if he were a human rag doll.

This year, Coach Gibbs brought back with him Joe Bugel, arguably the best offensive line coach of all time. During the 80's, while offensive line coach for Gibbs, Bugel created the hogs, the best offensive line ever assembled on the football field. With Ramsey's strong arm and Bugel's offensive line protection philosophy, the Redskins could do some damage on the football field.

The Redskins fans will give Gibbs as much support and time he needs to turn the franchise around. While fans hope the rumors are not true that he is retiring, they do understand that his health comes before his passion.

Six Howard Players Named To All-MEAC Team

BY ED HILL
Special To The Hilltop

Roland "Jay" Colbert, Brandon Torrey and Antoine Bethea were voted to the 2004 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference first team and Ronald Bartell, Jr., Jesse Hayes, Mike Sanders and Colbert were selected to the second team by the conference coaches and sports information directors.

Colbert, a 5-8, 200-pound senior running back from Damascus, Md., rushed for 1,018 yards and 8 TDs to finish fourth in the conference. It marked the second time that Colbert has surpassed the 1,000-yard in his career.

Torrey, a 6-6, 280-pound senior tackles from Durham, N.C., helped lead Howard to almost 200 yds per game rushing. It was the second straight year that Torrey has been honored.

Bethea, a 5-10, 185-pound junior safety from Newport News, Va., was also named to the MEAC first team for the second straight year. Bethea tallied 99 total tackles while leading the

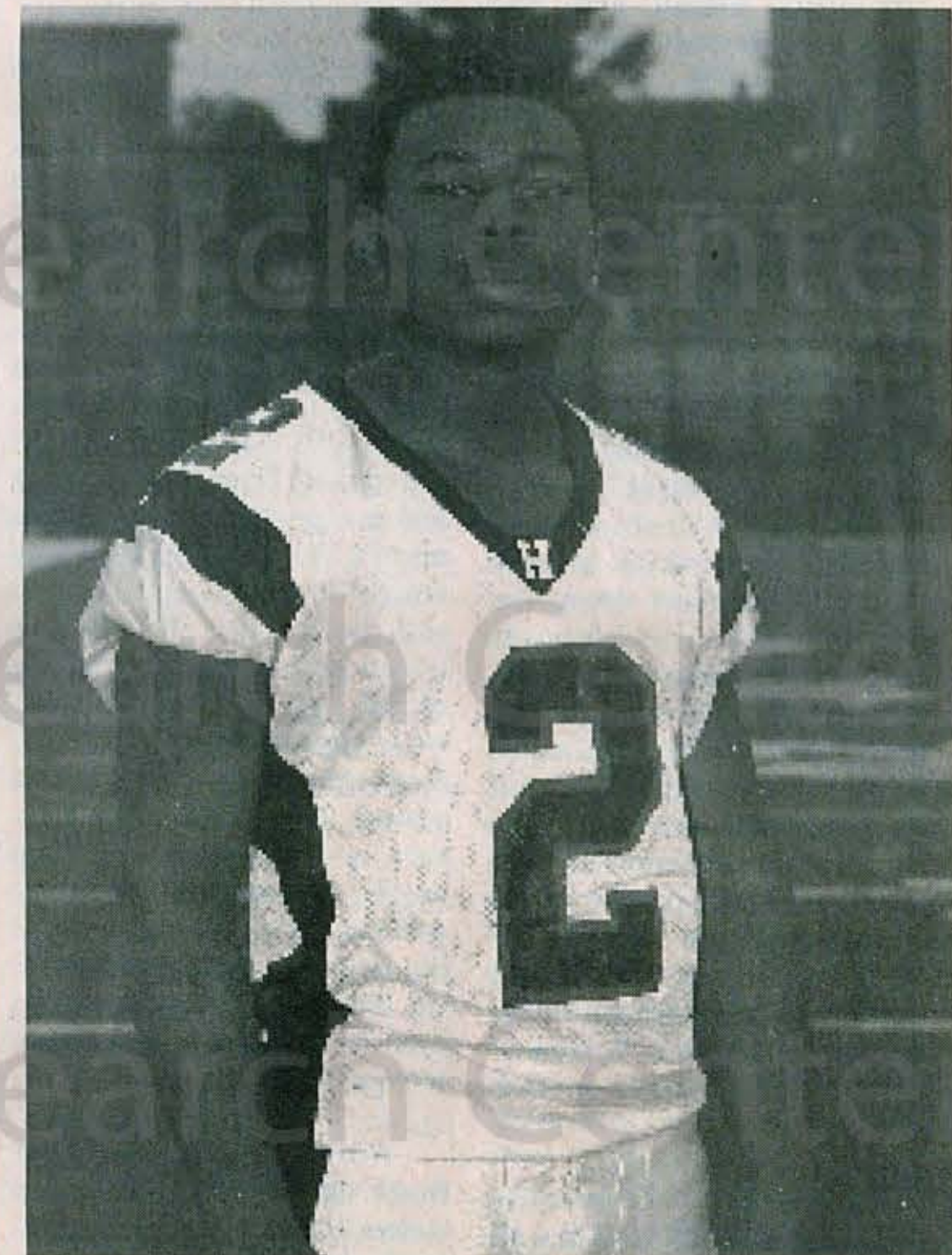
team in interceptions with three and leading the MEAC in forced fumbles.

Bartell, a 6-2, 203-pound senior safety from Detroit, ranked third in the conference in passes defended with 14. He also collected 29 solos, 10 assists and a fumble recovery.

Hayes, a 6-3, 370-pound junior defensive tackle from Baltimore, Md. was one of the keys to the Bison's success on defense this season. Howard ranked nationally in several categories and led the conference in scoring defense and in total defense. Hayes finished with 12 solos, 17 assists, 6 tackles for losses, 2 fumble recoveries and a forced fumble.

Sanders, a 6-3, 230-pound senior linebacker from Greensboro, N.C., had his best season with the Bison, finishing with 103 total tackles to lead the team. He ranked first in the MEAC in tackles for losses with 19.

Colbert also made his mark as a return specialist, averaging almost 17 yards per punt return, including an 80-yard return for a score and over 20 yards per kick return.



Antoine Bethea has been a consistent playmaker for the Bison the last two seasons.

Text Messaging the New Way Of Communicating

TEXT, from L&S B1

to Jennifer Bryant, a sophomore majoring in print journalism.

Students at Howard have many reasons why they pay the extra monthly fee for the text messaging service. Javier Vergara, a junior legal communications major said, "I use text to communicate with people because it saves a lot of unnecessary communication, especially when it comes to business," while Duffy said he uses it "to talk to people for when my calls are not free." All students can definitely agree that text messaging is a priority when it comes to saving daytime minutes.

Text messaging has been compared to instant messaging as well as e-mail because students can communicate to a group of people all at once. Vergara said, "I send out texts during the holidays or when something important comes up I can send a text message to everyone saying Happy Thanksgiving instead of calling everybody. Or when I was reminding people to vote it came in handy." Vergara, who is also known as DJ Goldenboy also takes advantages of bulk text messages to promote parties for his promotion company LGI Entertainment.

As text messaging grows in

popularity there are some students who feel text messaging is too impersonal. "Sometimes you need to have a conversation about things," Bryant said, "but if it's something quick like 'meet me outside of [Douglass Hall]' than its ok to text." Harris feels that talking to a boss or an employee is impersonal and inappropriate.

Some Howard students do not like text messages all together or feel they are "annoying" or impersonal. Electrical engineering major Kenneth Byrd said, "I hate text messaging, I'm a pretty personable person, I would much rather hear the person's voice. If somebody text messages me, I'll only text them back if I'm in class and bored."

Text messaging may seem like an easy, convenient way to quickly deliver some information or a greeting but it does have its pitfalls. "It's difficult to stress stuff and show emotion through text, which can work for or against you," Vergara said. Some students have complained about how long it may take to type a message, or when they have just typed a really long message only to receive an incoming call and erase the whole message.

Whether it is just to remind



someone what time to pick them up or just to let someone know you are thinking about them, text messaging offers another way to reach out and touch someone.

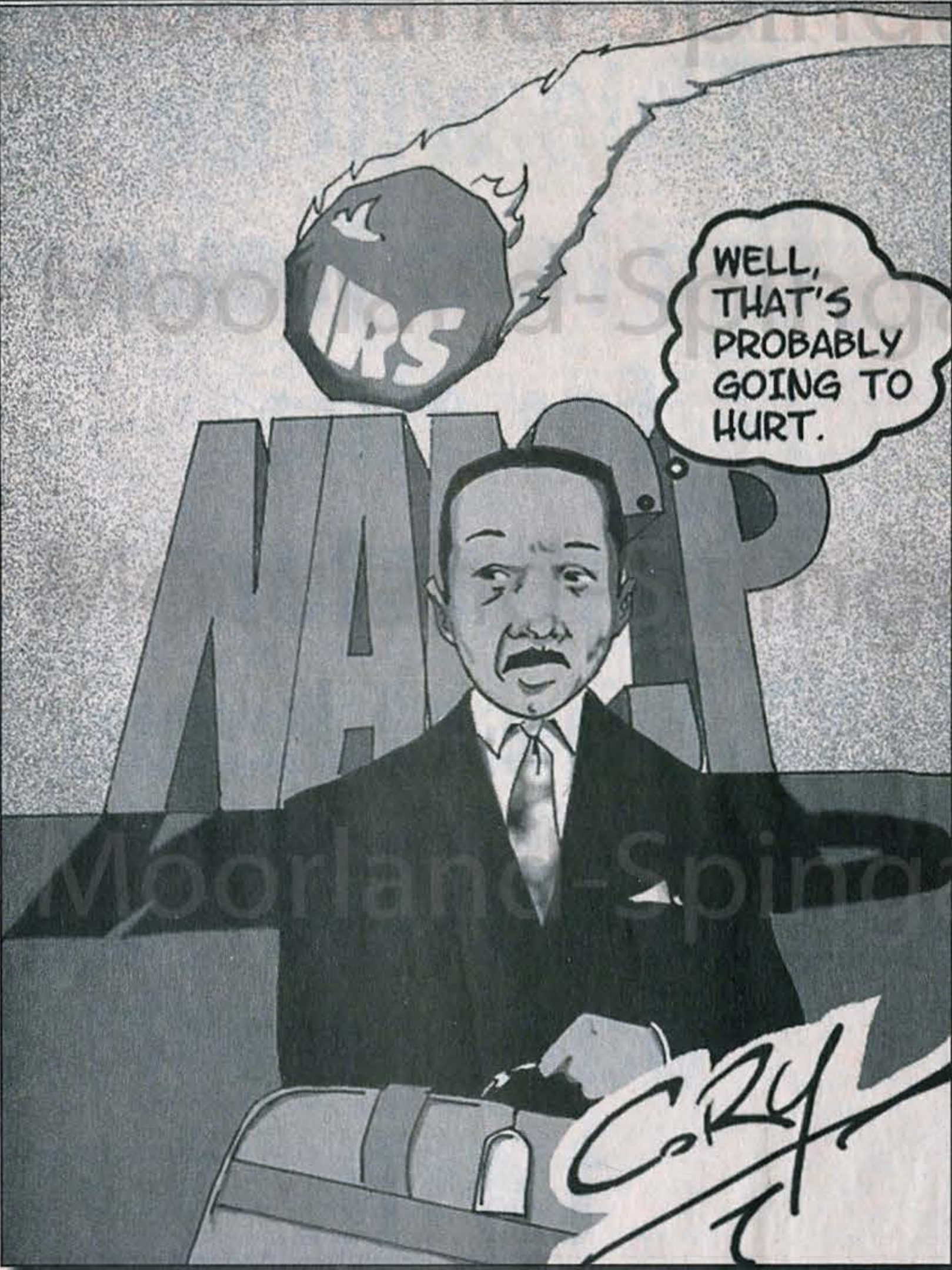
This will be
the last issue
for this
semester.
The next issue
will be
January
14th.

Who's Who On Howards Campus 2004-2005

Ajayi, Adegbola B.
Alsop, Vermecia R.
Andre, Rachel
April, Brown
Armstrong,Vivia E.
Badger, Katrina
Bascombe, Nadine
Battle, Tiffany
Beauge, Diana
Beckett, Jade
Blackman, Nicole
Blair, Keron
Blakely, Kandyce
Boyd, Samika
Branch, Latoya
Bridges, Lauren
Brooks, Codie
Brown, Andrea
Brown, Brandon
Brown, Cenita
Brown, Louis III.
Brown, Natasha
Brown, Tia
Brundage, Delana
Burke, Jade
Carpenter, Angel
Carter, Junius
Chacon, Shaunte
Childress, Lauren
Chilongo, Tawene
Clark, Nicole
Clark, Tashista
Clark, Tiffany
Clemons, Latoya
Cole, Jaclyn
Craighead, Marissa
Cumbess, Cassandra
D'Andreade, Shari
Davis, Johnathan
de Coteyu, Sherry-Ann
Dennis, Derrick
Devonish, Charelyn
Dillette, Melissa
Dixon, Kyra
Dues, Chyteira
Dumas, Chanelle
Edwards, Kadia
Egolum, Ugochukwu
Elliott, Amber

Ettienne, Reynolette
Everett, Angela
Ewell, Quincy
Farrington, Julius
Fawole, Oloade
Ferril, Jeanelle
Fisher, Michael
Foster, Keila
Gaines, Camille
Gainous, Ebony
Gainous, Ebony
Gammage, Lyddia
Gant, Phyllisia
Gates, Stacey
Gray, Lateefah T.
Guillame, Daphne
Guthrie, Adam
Harley, April
Harley, Chantel
Harris, Darren
Henry, Freda
Henry, Jessica
Herring, Tenisha
Hill, Lakeysa
Hinton, Latoya
Howard, John P.
Howard, Kristen
Howie, LaShaya
Jackson, Candice
James-Davis. Omonn
January, Katina
Jefferson, Kendall
Jennings, Terrica
Johnson, Jaylen
Johnson, Nicholas
Jones, Cherbonti
Jones, Kimberly
Jordan, Kory
Jordon, Tamra
King Cameo L.
King Sheree D.
King Stephanie M.
Koon, How Tara L.
Lockett, Darryl J.
Logan , Alexis C.
McCain, Keli A.
McLain, Amie J.
Mitchell, Floyd J.
Mobley, Steve D.

Morgan-Lee, Avisha A.
Neil, Rozanne M.
Odom, Tierra M.
Ogundiran, Aderibigbe B
Otitioju, Oluwabukunmi S.
Palmer, Danielle R.
Peay, Carol J.
Pickett, Paris N.
Porter, Jacquelyne D.
Purvis, Jacques R.
Reed, Angelique A.
Richmond, Lakesha
Russell, Tameka A.
Scott, Alisha Marie
Sensabaugh, Mia V.
Simpkins, Errin E.
Simpson, Kamari I
Sims, Sharanie V.
Sims, Sonja A.
Sims, Tiffany Nicole
Singleton, Sydney K.
Slade, Brandon N.
Smith, Fletcher N.
Snipes, Danielle S.
Steib, Aspen D.
Stewart, Byron P.
Strum, Kerra A.
Stubbs, Keisha A.
Sweeting, Rhasheema A.
Swinton, Akilah D.
Taylor, Donneshia N.
Taylor, Shara D.
Taylor, Venus B.
Thomas, Arian Delores
Thomas, Chervickia M.
Thomas, Miya M.
Tinsley, Brian
Tisdale, Ruth
Trotter, David L.
Turner, Tiffani J.
Watson, Anthony J.
Watson, Courtney F.
Westbrook, Jesyca M.
Williams, Janelle A.
Williams, Kali R.
Wilson, Kelli M.
Womack, Veronica Y.
Wood, Kia M.
Woody, Conrad



Encore for Kweisi Mfume

When Kweisi Mfume lays his head on the pillow at the end of the day, he should feel accomplished and complete. When he accepted the position of President and CEO of the NAACP in 1996, he had a rocky path ahead of him.

The organization was on the verge of bankruptcy and its reputation was fading quickly. He has carried the NAACP through turbulent times into a place of progress and stability. During his nine-year tenure, Mfume relieved million of dollars in debt and created a surplus of \$15 million.

The NAACP has expanded and continued its involvement with political issues, voter registration and fair representation in the judicial system. Members of the NAACP must be feeling squeamish as they prepare to see their leader go. Mfume cites his exhaustion and need for family time as his reason to step

down. "True leaders make way for other leaders," Mfume said.

We understand that Mfume has a life and is entitled to change his mind and pass the baton. We feel a dark cloud is looming over the NAACP with investigations, allegations and attempts to declassify their non-profit status. If this situation were to occur, the NAACP

because the NAACP could revert back to the bankrupt and struggling organization he put the band-aid on. We are proud of the organization and we would like to ensure that it will continue to prosper in the future.

Though we are cheering for Mfume, we hope he isn't abandoning the NAACP because he thinks trouble is on the way.

The talks of him potentially running for the governor of Maryland and several other projects makes us think he might be trying to dip out while things are peaceful.

His resignation becomes effective as of January 1, but he

will serve as a consultant to the NAACP until June to help with the transition. We hope Mfume will continue to be involved with the organization and give steadfast support if they happen to lose their non-profit status. Hopefully the NAACP will fall into good hands.

Our View:

The NAACP benefited from his leadership and it's sad to see him go.

would be at their most critical and pivotal moment. Mfume has been instrumental in several legal tiffs including the Cracker Barrel discrimination suits.

Such victories demonstrate that Mfume and his team know how to get things done. We would like for Mfume to stick around in case things get messy,

Racism Rears Its Ugly Head

When we think about "colored" water fountains, restaurants and hotels we get this image of racist bigots and oppression that seems so distant. The days of segregation and the struggles African-Americans faced seem like stories only our grandparents can explain. Just when we think our country has made some progress, we get slapped in the face with the reality that those distant values are lingering around for our generation.

A proposed amendment to change some offensive un-enforced segregation-era language was recently shot down by a slim majority of voters. The amendment was defeated by 13 percent when the last votes were tallied. Alabama law requires an automatic recount if the margin is within a half percent. We feel alarmed that close to 50 percent of the voters feel pleased and satisfied with making distinct references to

the use of separate facilities. It will be interesting to see if the recount will make a difference.

The amendment focused on removing separate-schools language and other passages referencing Brown v. Board of Education. The opponents of the amendment claimed that

runs. We think this is an excuse to keep the humiliating language in the legislation. Civil rights activists have been in uproar, calling this an attempt to divide Blacks and Whites in Alabama.

We know that Alabama is way below the Mason Dixon line, and we understand that history has a hand in the feelings about the constitution. However, the reality is that federal government supercedes the state legislation anyway, so it's pointless to have a constitution you cannot enforce.

It would have been respectful and realistic to amend the constitution. This reminds us of the confederate flag issue in the South that symbolizes the hatred that looms in this country. The resistance to the amendment shows how many people strongly support segregation and who simply couldn't stand to take the high road.

part of the amendment could lead to property tax increases by letting courts declare that education is a constitutional right and then order spending increases for under-funded public schools.

From this perspective, we can appreciate the argument, but a few minor improvements in wording will not result in a total shift in the way Alabama

Our View:

We're disappointed that Alabama's constitution will continue to mention segregation.

THE HILLTOP

RUTH L. TISDALE, Editor-in-Chief

RHASHEEMA A. SWEETING BERNARD "POET" MURRAY
Managing Editor Managing Editor

MAIYA NORTON, Editorials & Perspectives Editor

Blue States + Red States ≠ Mandate

The map of the United States resembled a puzzle on election night. Red overwhelmingly dominated the map, whereas blue was concentrated in small areas. Without any further thought, one would assume most of the country wanted George W. Bush to be re-elected. All of the states in the middle and most of the South had W's name written all over them.

We understand that he won 51 percent of the popular vote, but there are a few issues we want to address before we can give Bush the freedom to push an ultra-conservative agenda. A mandate is defined as an authorization given to a representative to act. In this case, Bush and the Republican Party are claiming the right to pass a very conservative agenda to represent "what the people want." This is where we find ourselves shaking our heads.

There have been many presidential elections that showed

overwhelming support for a particular candidate, regardless of his party affiliation. In these instances, we think it is appropriate for that president to act as he wishes since his support is relentless. However, here in America, we did not have overwhelming support for anyone.

We are a country divided on morals, priorities and goals. As soon as Kerry conceded, there

was this immediate talk about unification and the need to work together as a nation. We wonder what happened to that notion.

Our View:

The race wasn't a landslide, so Bush must encompass all views in his agenda.

Bush only seems to be willing to reach out to those who share his views. Being narrow-minded, he will ignore the needs of half of the country. There is entirely too much anti-Bush

sentiment right now to claim such a victory and proceed without working with others.

We are tired of hearing that Bush has received more votes than any president in history. Is anyone paying attention to the fact that Kerry is right behind him in the stats? The moral of the story is the population is growing rapidly and people came out in record numbers to vote. It was the efforts of many campaigns such as "Vote or Die," the rejuvenation in the political system and the energy that increased voter turnout, not the intense passion for either candidate.

No matter how many people voted for Bush, we were all sitting on the edge of our seats wondering who the winner would be up to the last minute. We totally disagree with the mandate because there are too many opponents to Bush and some of his plans. We hope pressure will force a fair and balanced agenda rather than a one-sided plan.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 81st year, The Hilltop is published every Tuesday and Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Howard University, its administration, individual Board members or the student body.

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The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

Ron Artest: Funniest Man Alive

STEPHEN REDHEAD

Saturday afternoon, I was walking around my neighborhood talking to my "associates" who graced my presence with beautiful tank tops and I got a call from a friend of mine. He told me to come to his house and watch ESPN. I couldn't believe what I saw.

Much in disbelief, I burst out laughing as Ron Artest fouled Ben Wallace hard in the head and decided to rest on the score table. At this point, I believe that Artest has lost his mind because he clearly was not aiming for the ball at all. Then I saw that cup fall on his chest and Artest decided to throw down against a fan in the stands. I feel that the punishment Artest received is more than appropriate for his behavior.

Under no circumstance should a player attack a fan. But then again, the fans were to blame for being so ignorant to curse out the players, throw liquids and punch anyone. You could smell the lawsuits from

miles away. One guy even decided to get on the court and confront Artest. Big mistake, son! You don't mess with somebody when they just finished fighting someone who paid good money to watch him play.

The incident was horrible but it was hilarious to me. I watched in amusement as Artest waved his arms to the crowd as if he was king of the world. Jermaine O'Neal's brilliant "home-run" sliding punch made its target lean back quicker than Holyfield. I had to ask myself the following question in my state of confusion: So you're going to fight over a foul? Fine.

When Ben Wallace got fouled, he pushed Artest straight in the face hard. He's a big guy. Ron retaliated by lying down. But when a cup of beer falls on his chest, he decides to step up against a scrawny, little man? What kind of a punk move is that? Wallace slammed his face! Beer stains can wash out, son. I know this. Just when I thought my amusement was over, I listened to a

mixtape by DJ Kay Slay.

He just premiered a new rap song by Ron Artest over the "Everything Is Everything" track by Lauryn Hill. The song, which is hilariously whack, contains such lyricism that it would make Shaq and Kobe's beef look like Jay-Z and Nas. Lines such as "With your lyrics, with your heat, with your physique, I'll hit your stomach and cheeks," "We in the club like Nick @ Nite," "I'm from the H-O-O-D and nobody can hold me," you can't help but laugh at this man.

Artest needs to take a look at himself in the mirror and realize that if he keeps playing around like this, he will not only lose his career, but the little respect that he did have. As of now, he is now the funniest man alive, or at least in the NBA. If anybody wants the DVD of the fight or the song, I got it all for \$3. Trust me, you will not be disappointed. It's great fun to watch with the family during the holiday.



Power and Beauty: A Strange Intersection (660)

ADRIAN TAYLOR

In Africa and across the Diaspora, Black is consciously and subconsciously associated with powerlessness and what I call "un-beauty." Whether we read about women in Africa bleaching their skins, women in the states conking and dying their hair blond or brothers choosing White women over and above Black women-- no matter their class status, we find this problematic. Our sense of powerlessness and un-beauty has us looking everywhere but the mirror.

Reasonably so, our oppression has produced psychic pain; and we are wailing away at our sense of powerlessness and its false imagery. All throughout the media, White is associated with power and beauty. It consequently makes sense that the Africana world wants power and beauty. Who doesn't? Who wants to be at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder and "ugly?"

White power, and concepts of the beautiful, have reigned for the last 500 some-odd years, covering the whole cultural continuum-- from our concepts of God, language(s), costumes, masks, concepts of governance and the management of our economies.

We are at a cultural crossroads all around the world, with acts of resistance and recreation popping up from time to time. Yet, far too many of us sub-

mit to White power and beauty, on many levels of consciousness. When we call on God, it's mostly from the Western paradigm. When we speak and write, it's non-indigenous (I am not exempt). Our dress is disproportionately Western. When we think of governance and economic development it's "colored" by Western models. Have we no history? Have we no original bones? Have we no agency? Can we not come anew as agents of cultural creation, where all our creations are viewed as acts of culture?

Yet, if the goal is to become powerful, and beautiful, how is this to happen? It must start with a critical deconstructive eye, so that we can reconstruct on more solid grounds. We must examine these White power "types", and ask ourselves if what we see is aesthetically all that there is to see.

If power is synonymous with European hegemony, which promotes false notions of the Universal, White universals whose grounds are faulty, and oftentimes imperial, we may want to reconsider our conceptions of power. We need anti-hegemony if the world is to ever become a global community; one that checks greed and promotes diversity through critical dialogue; one that recognizes our collective limitations, and values life in all its forms. We are fallible creatures, as such; our God concepts, forms of governance, and/or our cultural acts

are not better than the others. Given our limitations we must be humble, promote our values and fight to respect difference and agreeable disagreements.

Where is beauty "truly" not? Let's say that one is born Black, and they are a "believer", as most of us are. In this case, if one alters their God-given beauty-- not loving our colors, not loving our features, and not loving the color and texture of our hairs, aren't we implying that God is fallible? And how can this be the case if God, in the Western sense, is infallible and loving. In this context, not loving one's beauty is an act of not loving God if we are "truly" made in God's image.

If we want power and beauty we needn't do it by being bound to the limited models of the day. Power today is synonymous with Imperialism. Beauty is synonymous with whiteness. Imperialism will not work unless we want perpetual warfare. White beauty is not the only beauty. If we are not careful and continue to work towards power and beauty under this world's present paradigm, we will be nothing but imperialists with Black skins and white masks.

We are limited, to the degree of our visions. We must learn our history to imagine and work for a better today, for tomorrow. Dream anew, and create cultural acts that promote freedom and beauty. Mask our beauties no more. Be free!

Proud to Be in the Forest

SHEENA LEWIS

I just wanted to thank Pastor Hunter and The Hilltop for printing "Don't miss the forest forget the greens." I can't even begin to count the number of times I am not only irritated, but disgusted by my fellow Bison and their oversensitive attitude towards diversity.

The moment a White or an international student who isn't African-American opens their mouth to express some sort of observation, dislike, comment or anything that might have to do with the African-American race, they immediately are bombarded with tons of "No you didn't" or "That's racist" or some other ignorant comment without taking the time to understand or acknowledge the fact that they are speaking from another perspective and only commenting

on what they have witnessed.

So many times we complain about the fact that White people or others only see the negative, or the stereotypical images, but not once do we stop and take a look at ourselves. Yes, they do tend to see more of that, and why is that? Because these are the images we provide.

Stop getting upset because other races see us eating greens with our fingers, or see African-American females in a different light because of all the videos, because quite frankly people, take a look around. This is what you will see. Walk around campus and look at the outfits. Walk around the Punch Out and Blackburn, you'll see hot sauce at almost every table and on Soul Food night, you see our wonderful Bison tearing up the greens, with fingers or forks, however they can.

So stop getting upset, and before you start yelling racism and all these other hypochondriac (make believe) issues you seem to keep finding, take a look around. Don't get upset because the outside world sees what you only want Black folk to see. Get over it. So what, let them see this side, then work on showing them a more professional, educated, respectable side.

You can't always show the positive, but you can show them that there are two sides to everything, including African-Americans. We can tear up some greens, drown our already fatty foods in hot sauce, and still run a billion dollar business, lead the nation and raise our children (and ourselves in some instances) to be "Leaders for America and the Global Community."

I remember that when I first attended Howard University in 1972, I wondered why Locke Hall was named for John Locke, the White philosopher. It wasn't until two years later, my senior year that I realized that the building was named for Alain Locke, the prominent scholar and for-

mer Howard University professor. I hope that all students take time to read this column that imparts rich historical information about their campus.

-Dr. Lena Ampadu, Class of 1974

You Want A Soldier?

JAYMES JOHNSON

I'm sure "Soldier," the latest single off the Destiny Fulfilled album featuring T.I. and Lil Wayne, will become the next Destiny's Child inspired anthem for women. This leaves me forced to raise the question: What happens to the regular brothers? I mean, what happens to us guys whose "status ain't hood?" The obvious answer (that's if you're a girl who wants to be this rude) is "I ain't checkin' for ya." But while I'm ignoring you, if one of you ladies would care to render a more feasible answer, I'm all ears.

Now, I understand the "security" thing: no woman wants to feel unsafe around her man should trouble show

its face. Better yet, no mother wants to think she raised some (feel free to insert your own words here) that can't defend himself or his girl. But aside from that, what's wrong with a dude that is not into the whole fighting thing? Am I less of a man because I choose to keep the peace and not "keep a piece?" Do I have to come with two strikes and a P.O. to approach you now? If so, that's stupid.

Just imagine how much more complicated that makes your life. How much unnecessary stress and drama you'll be bringing upon yourselves to take on the burdens of your "soldier." Then you resort to confiding in your friends all of the problems that you're having, or left running to one of

us "regular guys" to cry on our shoulders (not that I mind). But what you're left with is time and tears wasted, and questions like "where have all the good men gone?" So I ask, can a "rude-boy" be simultaneously good to his girl or would he just be running game?

Sure, he can have manners and all that, but sooner or later he's going to "keep it real" with you and end up breaking your heart-- that's if he's the real soldier that you and he both think he is. So, hopefully this will just be another fad like the whole "light-skinned brothers are played out" thing, and this too shall pass. If not, I guess I'll just be forced to register a firearm in my name pretty soon. Ha!

click it to us.

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500 word perspective to

www.thehilltoponline.com.



Thank you very much for the column," Know Your University."

All HILLTOPICS

Are due, paid in full, the Tuesday and Friday before publication date.

Announcements by campus organizations for meetings, seminars or nonprofit are charged \$5 for the first 20 words and \$1 for every additional five words.

Individuals advertising for the purpose of announcing a service, buying or selling are charged as local companies with a rate of \$10 for first 20 words and \$2 for every 5 words thereafter.

Announcements

Howard Players Present No Exit

December 3rd and 4th @ 7:30pm December 4 @ 2:30 Pm ETS (In fine arts building) Tickets 5:00

"Guess Who's Back" 8:52pm Main Yard 12-3-04 Pizza for a canned good donation

Poetry Night "Spit Fire" Punchout Friday Dec 3rd 8pm-10pm

We're Back 4th Annual Student Film/Animation Screening Silver Sky Entertainment, LLC Presents: Silver Sky Films A Night of the Best Short Student Films! FREE Last Day of Classes Friday, December 3rd, 7:15 p.m. in Blackburn Auditorium

Need Community Service?

Local organization, M.O.M.I.E.'s TLC, located in Columbia Heights, seeking volunteers to tutor children in various subjects. Programs are designed to improve the academic and social skills of underserved children ages 5-9. Opportunities are always available!!! For more information, please e-mail: srgates@howard.edu or mnmarsh@howard.edu Phone: 240-286-3765

Opportunities

Students, Faculty, Staff
Top prices paid for used and unwanted Textbooks
Taj Book Service
(202) 722-0721
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Spring Break 2005 with STS
America's #1 Student Tour Operator
Hiring campus reps. Call for group discounts. Info! Reservations 1-800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com

Cover to Cover The HU Magazine Group will host its Holiday Mix and Mingle on Monday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m. in the Covered Media Lab

I love you Jeremy!!!

The Light House at Cafe Mawonaj 624 "T" Street-Between Howard/Dhaw Metro and Florida Ave. Come out and share your talents (Poetry, Singing, Dancing, Spoken Word, Whatever!) Saturday, December 4th from 8-10pm Free For more information contact wardyoungadult@yahoo.com The Light House Lounge at Cafe Mawonaj 624 "T" Street- Between Howars/ Shaw

Metro and Florida Ave. Come out and share your talents.

Shout outs to my roommates JoVon and Lindsay pronounced (Lind-say)

Lauren Pass- Congratulations on completing your first semester of college. DC was a huge transition from Indiana. Each day has provided a new life lesson. Even though I may not say it often, I am truly proud of you. Love, Your Big Brother Darryl Lockett

Don't Know What To Give For Christmas? How About A Glamorous Portrait For A Reasonable Price? For more information call (202)612-8891 Sample portraits are available for viewing

Fashion Show Open Call Saturday Dec 4th 4:30-6 Human Ecology Auditorium

Congrats, Aspen for your participation in the Miss DC USA pageant! You exemplified beauty and class and even got a radio shout out. Well done!

Roommate wanted to share a comfy 2 br/2ba apt 15 min from campus. Cable-ready, washerdryer in unit, and wall-to-wall carpetinf. \$450/month plus electric. Contact

Chris: 301-559-0275

PURCHASE COMMUNITY SERVICE SHIRTS!!! A New Hope for a new Howard is currently selling t-shirts to raise money to FEED THE HOMELESS Proceeds from the shirts will go towards feeding the homeless during the month of January and purchasing Full food baskets for needy families in DC Pick up your shirt in the HUSA office Blackburn suite 102 Today

Well its hard to believe that this year is over already I just want to say thanks to my girls: Shané, Shaunda, Charisse, Tangie, Dom, Ledora, Charanna, Divai, Fawn, and Gwen. To my new friends thats whats up: Stacey, Ruth, Maya. We be holding it down at THE HILLTOP Happy Holidays -Arion

Thanks to the wonderful staff both Tuesday and Friday. Look forward to more fun in the office next year. -Arion Jamerson

Hungry? Been studying all day? Craving something sweet?

Take a trip to your dorm lobby, and the Sponsorship Committee for the 13th Annual Woman to Woman Conference will solve your problem.

What: Bake Sale When: Monday, December 6 - Friday, December 10 8pm - 12am Where: Various dorms across campus

All SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS GRADUATING SENIORS: DECEMBER 2004 MAY 2005 Please come to the Student Advisory Center and meet the new Academic Advisors- Ms. Sandra Gaines & Ms. Bernadette Williams ASAP

WEEKLY BREAD

I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed. I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. You armed me with strength for battle; you made my adversaries bow at my feet.

Psalms 18:37-39

TIFFANI-TOPICS would like to say HAPPY HOLIDAY'S to everyone. Thanks for all the feedback that has appeared in the perspectives section, although it is ALL based on a HUGE misunderstanding. Topics...hmmmm Finals! Period! good luck to "graduating" seniors- do your best- or you can take the graduating out of seniors-ya dig This is my response to all the drama- Grow up and accept the fact that there are OTHER organizations on this campus and that your organization may not be right for everyone. Try finding time to celebrate the diversity in the organizations instead of demeaning them, and have a happy holiday;-) I don't want to hear about this next semester

NCNW Member Appreciation Bowling Party Tonight 6:30-8:30 In Blackburn There will be food and drinks.

The Gateway Alpha Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. presents "The Gift of Giving" A Toy Drive Spreading Holiday cheer to needy families Friday, December 3, 2004 Drop off Toys Between 5:08pm-7:08pm Ira Aldridge Theatre NOTE: All Toys must be unopened or new.

Words from the EIC... Y'all did it! We are officially through for the semester. I want to say to both Tuesday and Friday staff, that I thank God that he has blessed me with a staff that is hard working and diligent. Have a Merry Christmas and see you next semester.

Goodlife Entertainment And the Brothers of

Phi Sigma Pi

National Honor Fraternity Inc. Present

Breathe

Friday December 3, 2004

Kill's Cafe 2009 8th St 18 to Chill- 21 to Spill

Discount admission before 12 w/ flyer

Designed by M.Klean for Heavyweight Ent.